

Biography **Angie Crerar**

Angie Crerar grew up in Fort Resolution, Northwest Territories. Her fondest memories are those of family. She recalls living off the land, canning, hunting, gardening and fishing. Great values and life skills taught to her by her mother and father, the basis of a wonderful way of life, of being a Métis.

In 1947, that way of life changed for Angie, when she was taken from her home, her family and her community, and placed in the Residential School at Fort Resolution. For years Angie struggled and endured the way of life that the Residential School was now telling her and teaching her was the right way, and how her strong teachings from her parents were wrong. Angie stood for what she believed in, she stood up for those who could not stand up for themselves, she was determined not to let her spirit be broken, she is now and was then a survivor.

Angie left the residential school when she was 17 years old, with a mixed sense of values, and an indecision as to who she really was. But, somewhere deep down inside she still had the strong roots embedded from the past. Angie started her life, but was not prepared for the outside world. After 10 years of living in Yellowknife, she knew she had to make a change for her children and family so in 1966 she moved to Grande Prairie, where she met the most influential people in her life, her husband Doug Crerar, her Métis Sister Marge Mueller and Elder Dorothy Walter. They all showed her that life is wonderful and worth living and removed the many years of doubt and uncovered those long ago treasured Métis Roots.

Today, Angie and her husband Doug have a beautiful family of 10 children, one adopted son, twenty-three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Angie has been a key player in many local, provincial and national partnerships, initiatives and programs in the City of Grande Prairie, including the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre, Native Counseling Services of Alberta, Grande Prairie Regional College, Children's Services Authority, and many industry groups.

One of the most successful and rewarding endeavors spearheaded by Angie was the creation of the Elder Caring Shelter. She saw that Elders in her community needed a home, food and companionship. Thus the creation of the Elders caring shelter.

Angie has led a life of triumph and recognition which is evidenced by the numerous awards she has been honoured with.

- In 1987, she was named the volunteer of the year by Grande Prairie Friendship Centre.
- In 2003, Angie was the lifetime achievement recipient at the Esquao Awards.
- In 2005, she received the Centennial Award in Grande Prairie, as well as the prestigious Governor General Award.
- In 2008, she was named the hometown hero by the City of Grande Prairie.
- In 2012, Angie received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal as well as recognition for 33 years of service to the Friendship Centre movement.

And most important triumph of all, she is a Métis and a survivor.