

MINI REPORT

Oct. 3/16

Submitted by Robert (Bob) Graham to CCBC.

My stories are my own that I have developed about a man I met as a small boy. His name was Cecil (member of the first Nations) and I use him as my conduit. My stories are about his way of life, mother earth, goodness, fairness and equality.

Well my start is very different to those that toured in May of this year as it did not come about. Due to the Forest Fires in Alberta CCBC decided it was best to postpone. It was reorganized for the last week of Sept. and I just got home. I can say with certainty that the wait was well worth it for me. After I arrived in Edmonton on Sept. 25th and left from Calgary Oct. 1st, I travelled some 1000+ KM by car & plane within the Province. I told my Cecil stories at four different schools and two Libraries. I had a total of 16 individual tellings while at these locations and gave out 1400+ nickels to the kids, teachers and a few parents. I use our nickel as it has a Silvery White Beaver on it and it ties in with one of my Stories. This same story allows me to lead into the fact that the Beaver is the National Symbol of Canada and I am able to tell about its many traits and ways.

Some of the most amazing things happened while on tour, during and after each of my Storytellings. I told to one particular grade two class at a morning session and at recess one of the teachers that was in attendance brought one of her students back to the meet me. She had rushed back to her class room and had drawn me a picture. It had a large Heart with the names Bob, Cecil & Echo. She told me that when she grew up, got married and had children this was what she was going to name them. This idea came to her after my Cecil Story about a Foot Race that Cecil and Echo were in. Well I, along with the teacher, shed a few tears.

I had a number of teachers and parents shed a few tears during every telling and I knew I had reached them through storytelling. My stories, I hope, make a difference.

Standing in front of the kids and watching their expressions gives me a great deal of satisfaction. I can honestly say I held their attention during each and every storytelling. There were no instances of boredom.

I asked each class to hold their questions till after I finished each story and I had many hands go up. When did Cecil die? Is his cabin still there? What was my favorite story? How old am I? Did Cecil marry? I also had many stories told back to me about things they related to in my stories especially their experience with animals and mother earth.