

Ma-Nee Chacaby, author of *A Two-Spirit Journey. The Autobiography of a Lesbian Ojibwa-Cree Elder*, will be in Montreal from May 14 to May 17.

**A** *Two-Spirit Journey* is the powerful and moving memoir of a Ojibwa-Cree lesbian healer and activist Ma-Nee Chacaby. In a style inspired by the oral traditions passed down by her grandmother, she recounts her life struggles marked by tragedy and abuse. She tells the story of childhood friendships, her plight with alcoholism and her path to sexual awakening and self-healing that reveals the resilience and compassion of a remarkable woman. Her journey to healing leads her to a life of activism in Thunder Bay, where she achieved sobriety, trained and worked as an alcoholism counsellor and learned to live with visual impairment. In 2013, Chacaby led the first gay pride parade in Thunder Bay.

**T**hrough her introspection and exploration of intergenerational trauma, Ma-Nee transcends her personal history to provide readers with the full social and cultural context that allows a nuanced look at Canada's recent past. This provides us with a better understanding of the structural and lasting effects of colonialism, and more specifically, gendered violence against Indigenous women.

**B**eing one of the first Two-Spirit elders to have published an autobiography, Chacaby offers a valuable gift to Indigenous youth who identify with her story, especially those who have experienced abuse, disability, poverty in the ongoing context of colonisation.

**A**s Carleigh Baker says in her review for CBC Books on June 22, 2017: "This is not a niche book. Chacaby's story of endurance, and ultimately, hope offers something for readers of any background".

## Two events :

May 15, 12 pm (in English language)

With Anna Aude, Two-Spirit, community organizer from Abitibi

*Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University, 2170 Bishop Street, room MU 101*

May 16, 17:30 (in English language with French translation)

With Diane Labelle, Two-Spirit, First Nation activist in Kahnawake,

*L'Euguélonne, librairie féministe, 1426 Beaudry*

## UN PARCOURS BISPIRITUEL

RÉCIT D'UNE AÎNÉE OJIBWÉ-CRIE LESBIENNE

Ma-Nee Chacaby et Mary Louisa Plummer



Récit d'une aînée ojibwé-crie lesbienne

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