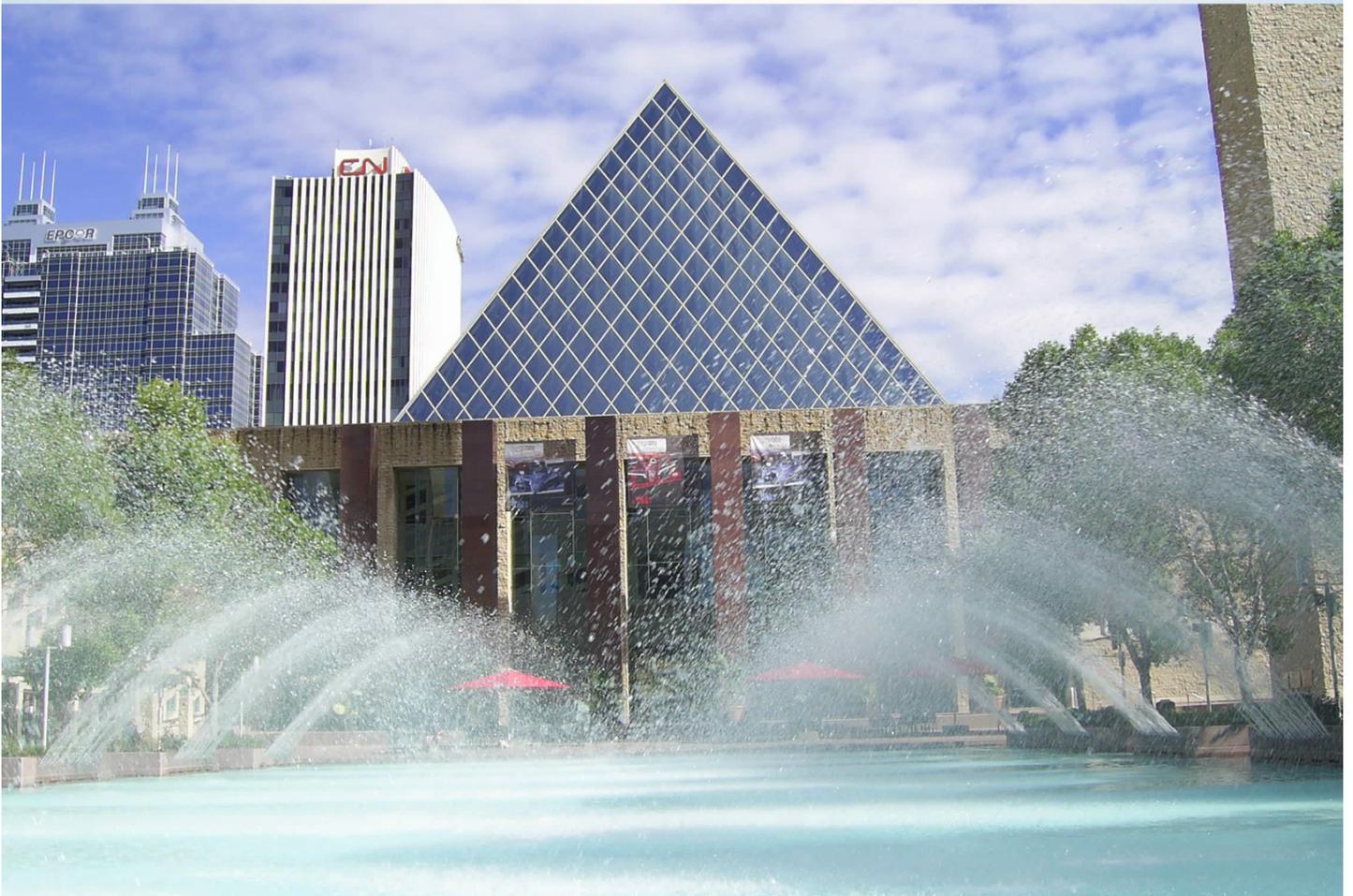


# Stories from the Centre . . .



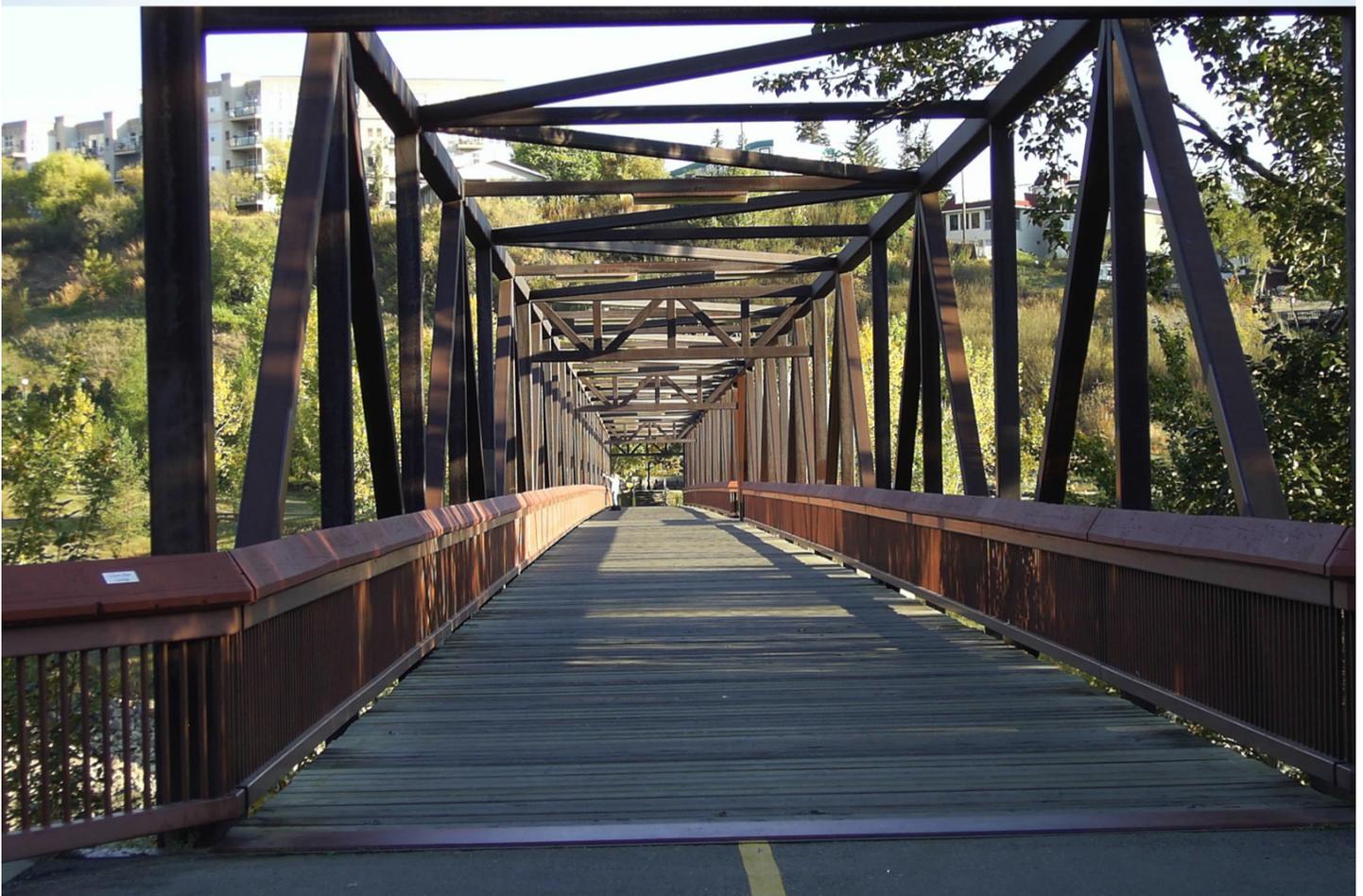
**READER  
ADVISORY  
ENLIGHTENED  
CONTENT**

Reading this may cause the following side effects: raising consciousness, heart may open up, may feel warm and tingly, may cause you to smile, your toes may tap, may cause enlightenment

**Our hope is that this magazine creates an opportunity for us, as individuals and as a community, to express our collective everyday experience through words, images, thoughts, ideas, and stories. We encourage the reader to keep an open mind when reading this magazine. A mind open to different perspectives and voices.**

**This magazine was developed out of a desire to bridge our experiences and those expected of us.**

**Enjoy!**



# Who are we? Who we are?



It's nobody's fault. Not even my own. I think sometimes things happen for a GREATER GOOD. Sometimes I think something is bad and it is exactly the way it is supposed to be. I would like the world to be perfect, nobody to suffer, everyone to be happy. What do I really know, maybe this is it, maybe it is perfect right now? I believe that I should try to improve or add to the world but that I would like to stop judging the way it is, because that implies that I know everything! I really know very little! So Live, Laugh, Love and be happy now!



Who am I?

Happy, sometimes sad, open-minded, say I know I don't know, been there, follow your gut instinct, like my friends that I need, boyfriend and dog, unconditional love, always try to make sure feet are planting on the ground, with gravity and inertia, back of my mind, what is important is now, now spelled backwards in won, recent thinking, borders, citizenship, multiculturalism, globalization, unity, technology and art, and a new future motto like a mission statement "I say stay true to yourself and don't look back. No one else can do that" thats who I am.



One often meets her destiny on the road she takes to avoid it.



I am a student at Boyle Street Co-op Learning Centre downtown. I'm taking my GED. I'm in my 3rd year and I'm also taking some upgrading too. I used to work at waste management driving a fork lift, had to quit due to my back problems and my mental health. My dream job is working with children with mental health problems and handicaps. My foster mom has MS. She is confined to a wheelchair, she is paralyzed from the waist down. I lived at home for 2 years to help my mom out then. She is now 62 yrs old the doctor's are saying she has another 4 years to live.



In all parts of the world the growth of a city is dependent upon the progress, like industry and commerce. A political capital such as Edmonton expanded from a farm/factory required a greater encouragement or regulation, and it is practically a great city. Navigating waters is not a coincidence where lake and river met, city had to be.

My life is based on a growth world. I'm living in the parts of the world, a growing city like Edmonton depends on industry, growing population, keep the economy stable. Being a resident of Edmonton I enjoy living in surrounding community like Boyle Street Co-op and Humanities 101. Edmonton has much requirement and regulation with control by government like laws, rules, and regulations, for example signs in a public area.



I'm Aboriginal from the Piapot First Nation 20 miles north of Regina, Saskatchewan, in the Fort Qu'appelle Valley, and I am not an Elder, Pipe Carrier, Healer or Teacher. I do perform some of our native culture and I conduct our spiritual tradition ceremonies. The Great Law of Nature is based upon the belief that the Creator exists in every form of life. I just wanted to share with you some of the pieces of the human puzzle of our Elders prophecy.



I want to be a King in my home land.

In the future, I want to go back to my home land where it will be my settle down. I want to help more of my people to understand what is going on in the world. Many people in my country look, they get a lot of confused because of politic issues. Politics destroys, all Africa unite. Some colonies were in Africa before. They instilled hatred in the local people and divided people against each other.

I don't like to see people live in bloodshed. My understanding is there is special organization to put down Africa people. I want to understand to make sure that no one can fool African people again. This generation there is a lot of interesting people, we can come together and share life and unite.



I am Plains Cree from Saskatchewan. I am honoured to be chosen to be a mother and a grandmother. I desire a freedom from the demons and beasts of my past, freedom from the destruction of drugs and alcohol. A way of life passed on to me and my ancestors before me, along with the sickness of rage and violence. I long to break the cycle for me and my little ones. I am always evolving. I am wrong and I am reliant. Oppression has been the way for me and my people for all one time, and it stops here. I have choices now. I am an adult. I am a woman. I say No, no more...



I would like to be a very good listener to the homeless people so they can tell me everything that is bothering them. They would have someone to talk to about all of their problems. I would also have a place for them to live so they can get off the streets.



I was born in Philippines. My mother's side has Spanish ancestry from Madrid Spain. My father is of Filipino descent. I never met any of my father's family members. My grandmother was a perfectionist . For school she made sure my blouse and skirt was ironed, shoes polished. For lunch she made sure I had fresh foods from the bakery. My chocolate milk was delivered to our door every morning. It was a pleasure being raised by my grandmother. She was very strict but provided unconditional love. In elementary, my brothers and I moved to Canada to live with our mother. She was the exact opposite. With my mother I was not made to wear dresses and I was allowed to play with my brothers.



With my brothers I played hockey, football, soccer, etc. With my grandma I was supposed to be prim and proper. I have two children, I was blessed with smart, healthy and good hearted children. For occupation I worked in the daycare environment, school bus operator, and loss prevention. I enjoy skiing, jogging, and family time.

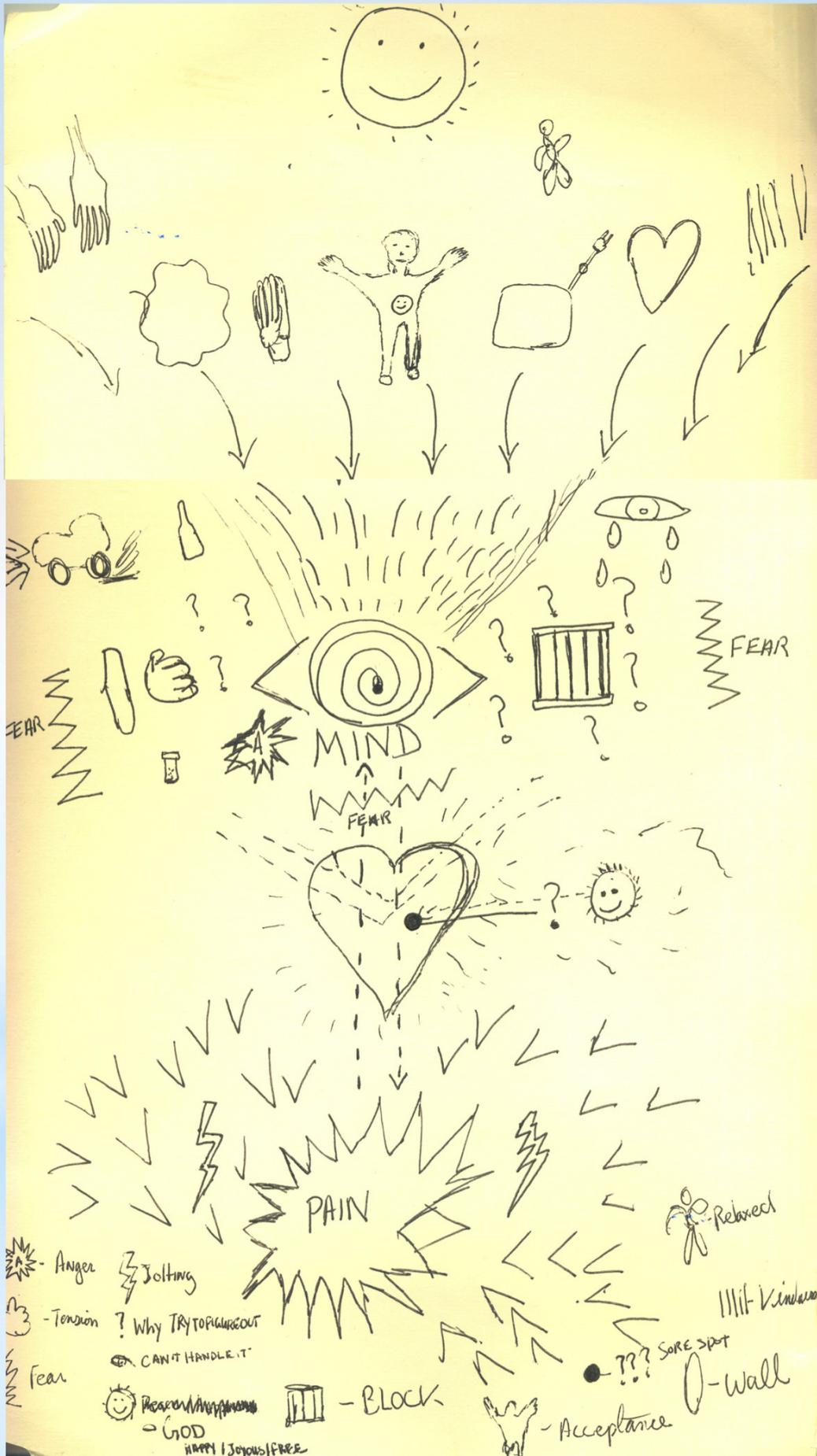




## **Futuristic Edmonton, 2080**

**When sky meets Earth - we may be living in a dome. We could have mountains four backyards, maybe an ocean at the front. Plenty of big sky, canyons, and a river (Snake River). You may travel shuttle to travel outside of the Dome.**

**City of Edmonton: Click on Dome for map of the city**

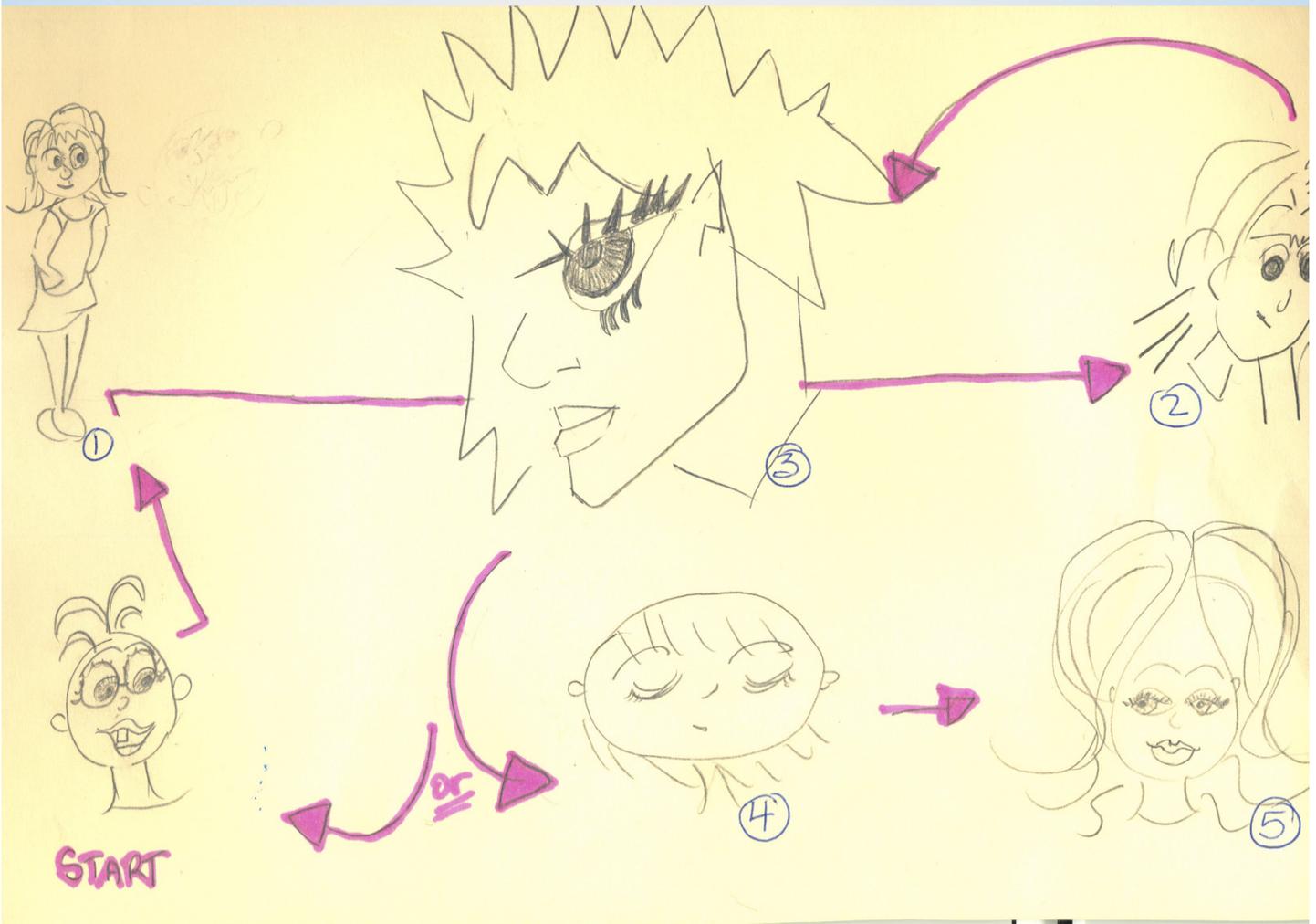


\* Anger ⚡ Jolting  
 ~ Tension ? Why TRY TO FIGURE OUT  
 ~ Fear CAN'T HANDLE IT  
 ~ Reason / Happiness  
 ~ GOD  
 HAPPY | JOYOUS | FREE

[Block] - BLOCK  
 [Stick Figure] - Acceptance

Mit Kinden  
 SORE SPOT  
 [Wall] - Wall

# Map of Life



Start -infancy

Step 1) childhood

Step 2) early trauma (adolescence)

Step 3) creation of strong self image

Choice—revert to infancy or grow

Step 4) acceptance of self and of life on life's terms

Step 5) adulthood including faith, tolerance and the ability to thrive.

THE LOVE YOU GIVE  
WITH EVERY TOUCH

What goes around comes around.

*IT'S ABOUT TIME*

my GUESS

**BROKEN  
DAMAGED  
LOST  
DISPUTED**

"I DON'T KNOW HOW IT WORKS maybe  
BUT IT DOES

*sing an ode to  
mid-century  
optimism.*

**STAY TRUE**

**HERE**

*who says*

*support*

*can't be*

HAD WE  
KNOWN,

***The truth***

**MAYBE**

The truth

The love you give with every touch  
What goes around comes around  
It's about time. My guess  
Broken, damaged, lost, disputed  
Don't know how it works  
Maybe, but it does  
Sing an ode to  
Mid century, optimism  
Stay true, here it is  
Who says support can't be  
Had we known The truth

Maybe.

## What's the difference

Three side to every story  
yours, mine the truth

1. By looks these flowers are  
soft, (core is picky)

2. The body without skin  
perhaps gruesome to some  
but very soft to touch

3. I've tried have you yet.

4. Power of Earth mother  
not always the best looking  
picture is the roughest

5. The best seat in the  
house isn't always soft

6. When we fixed, replaced  
found and sorted out  
when we change the  
way we look at things  
things around us begin  
to change. For better or  
worst.

7. Lucky number 7  
Legend lives on



The difference  
between rough



WE'VE  
**TRIED**  
IT...HAVE YOU  
**TRIED**  
THIS YET?

**POWER**



**FIXED  
REPLACED  
FOUND  
SORTED**

**LEGEND  
LIVES ON**

On March 7 we went to the University's campus to walk among Jaime Black's *REDress Project*. The installation brings attention to the over 600 murdered and missing Aboriginal women across Canada. The following pages reflect some of our experiences.



## **RED**ress Project

Jaime Black





## Is that You?

Run, run, run real fast  
In your red dress and  
high heels shoes  
Go left go right  
in which direction  
It's not about winning or loosing  
It's about what's right  
& what's wrong  
If it hurts can't be right  
I don't want to die tonight



The red dress. Very emotional and humbling experience. I didn't know what to expect before I got there. Once there and among the dresses I could feel my adrenaline rising. There were a lot of inner feelings. An unbelievable energy present. I would like to have stayed longer. It was more than I thought it would be. Check it out.



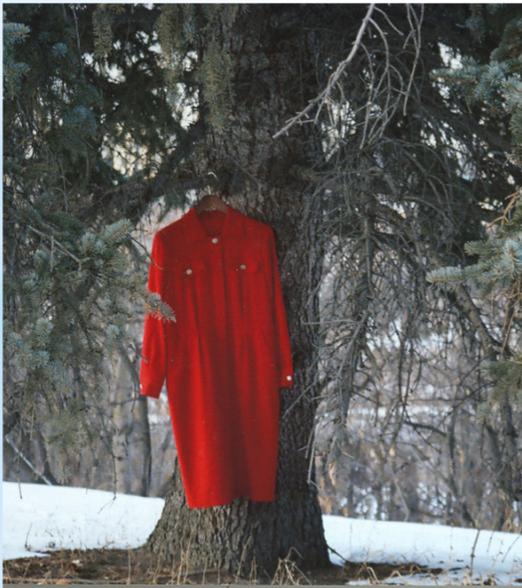
As I look at this image  
Saw you getting ready for some  
fun night out.

I saw you leave  
with your red dress on.

I saw you dance to this song.  
Never thinking for a second  
anything could ever go wrong.

You looked so beautiful  
with a wide smile and  
fifteen thousand stars  
in your eyes.

Unfortunately you danced with a  
predator which took your life.



## Granny

Granny was sent to  
residential school—real strict  
Granny's loving old spirit

Hand-sewn into squares  
perfect blankets, love and hymns  
pretty Sunday School dress

# \* Globalization

Pros	Cons
<p>More international news so we know what is happening in other parts of the world</p>	<p>Global Warming! Outdoor hockey rinks are melting and the outdoor skating season is getting shorter</p>
<p>We are more connected to others, like family, through the internet and we can pay bills, apply for a job or google information from anywhere</p>	<p>Once a child introduced to the ice            Found freedom            Represented by time            As the sky fell into night            With my sword I fought the fight            Now as the sun shines            Straight through            Researchers, activists rescue            Searching for dissolving dreams            Children's melting memories            Once a child introduced to ice            Found freedom            Represented by time</p>
<p>We can learn about things like soldiers in Afghanistan suffering from post-traumatic stress and how horses are used in psychotherapy</p>	<p>When one economy fails, it effects everyone</p>
<p>Global influence on fashion opens potential for creativity and widens the variety or materials available</p>	<p>Oil wells are causing pollution to our city and making us sick</p>
<p>We can get foods from everywhere, making snack time even more impressive</p>	
<p>The world can all join together and play games (like soccer!)</p>	

In one old woman's home, the linoleum floor held a map of all her movements for years. The erosion of foot-steps had worn trails, revealing all the pathways and destinations of her daily life. A favorite chair, a seat on the bed by the window and trips to tend the wood-stove were permanently recorded by her moccasined feet. But there was another kind of erosion to be seen in the old people's lives: the erosion of white culture into their own traditions and beliefs. We heard in the stories of our elders how they had felt the pinch and prod of contact with the white world. We heard of the depersonalizing effects of residential schools and the punishment delivered to children who dared to speak their own language. We saw the evidence of various European religions, all persistent in demanding that the Indians be wiped clean of their own method of worship, so that their souls could be won over to the biblical God.

It seems clear that if the special rights possessed by treaty Indians within confederation are to be maintained, the elders must be looked upon as a national treasure of the Indian people, a human foundation and reservoir of what remains of their culture. It is only through carefully listening to the elders, and abiding by their wisdoms that the continuance of a living Indian presence in Canada will be possible.



Safe sanctuary  
A home for the homeless  
Nourishment body and soul



**By Turning Turning We  
Come Round Right**



**Let the circle be unbroken**



## Cross Cancer Playground

Jody

Only 19

Took you by surprise

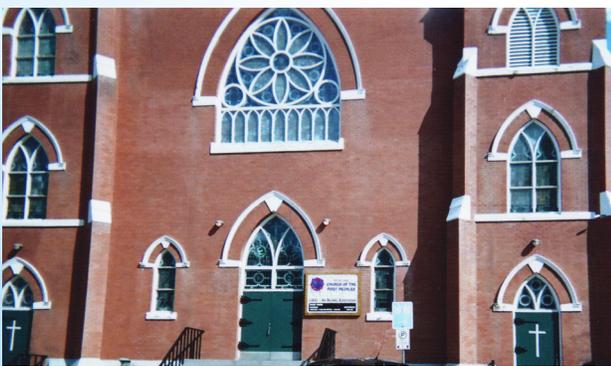
“Where are your little rugrats?”

You asked me with only breaths left.

Still loving me more than yourself.



I'm afraid of this place.



**Strong sanctuary**

**Come as-you-are trusted**

**Release brings me peace**

# obstacles

obstacles



## Smelling the Roses



Caution

may cause drowsiness  
or  
blurred vision

life

health

Healthy Choices,  
Positive Changes

Mental  
Health

style

1) How do I define street art?

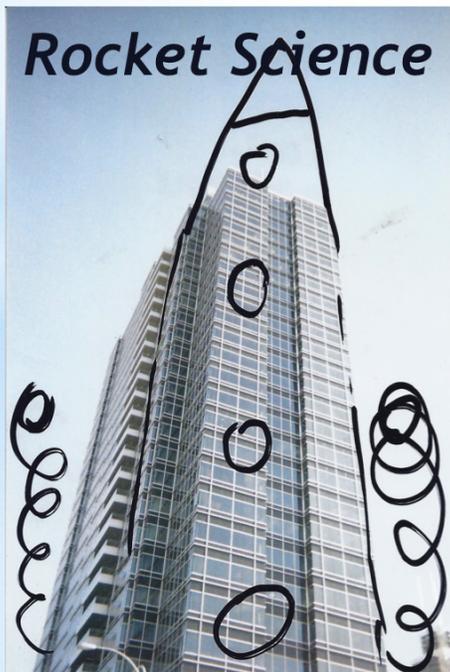
I think street art should tell people to be cautious about some thing.

2) What do I want street art to do?

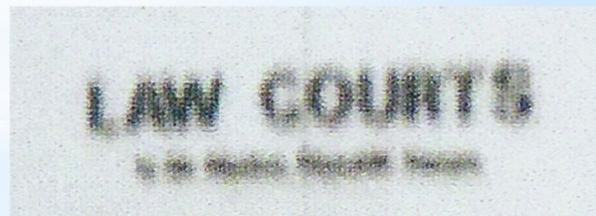
I want my street art to tell people to watch what they do about their mental health.



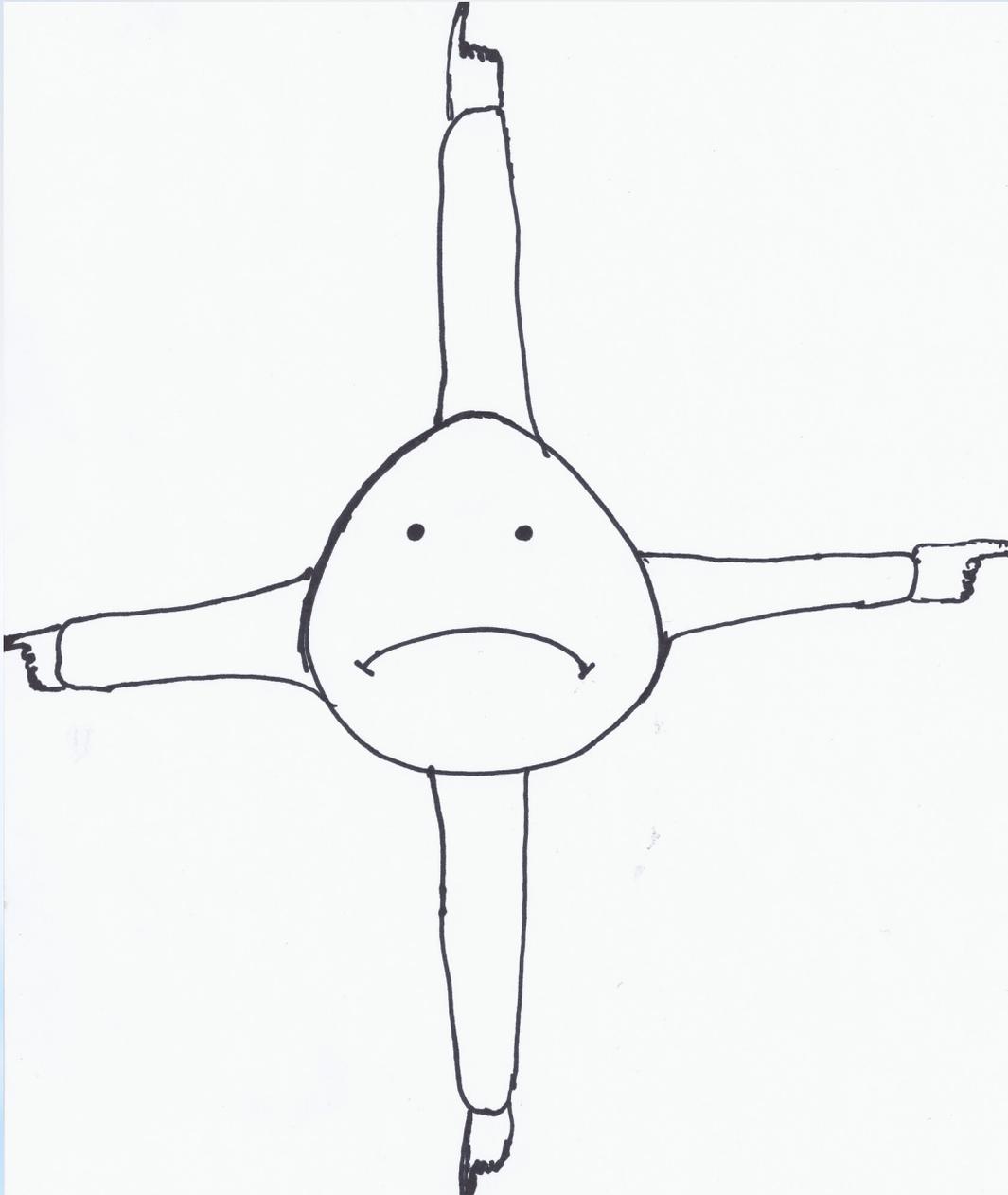
**Do I look fat  
on this bridge?**



Street Art  
Graffiti on trash bin  
Trash bin looks better  
Message: Put trash in bin  
Purpose: For garbage  
Graffiti? Art? Garbage?



(In)Justice like the Russian roulette, 50/50. Abuse of power, betrayal of trust and denial of rights.



**Whose Fault is it ???**



**Can you see me clearly?**



To laugh at fears yes  
Looks could kill a  
killer yes

So smile to the fear  
Pride to think the  
truth.

The knowledge of  
right and wrong to  
play God today.

# Where is Waldo?

