

Joe McLellan. (b. 1945)

Metis educator and storyteller, Joe McLellan, is of Nez Percè ancestry. He was born on September 27, 1945 at Monterey, California, his family then moved to Madras, Oregon, near the Warm Springs Reserve. His father was originally from Western Oregon, the area around Le Grand, Pendelton and the Umatilla Reserve. Through spending time with his grandparents, Joe acculturated into the Nez Percè way. After his grandmother died they moved to Wyoming and then to North Dakota where his dad was a professor at North Dakota State University. Joe took an English and Drama degree at the same university. A war resister, Joe came to Canada in 1967 and worked teaching at Melita, Manitoba then for Children’s Home in Winnipeg. He then went back to university and obtained his B.Ed. at the University of Manitoba. After graduation, he began teaching in core area schools for Winnipeg #1 School division. Joe is a Deacon in the Catholic Church, assigned to the St. John Brebeuf Community in Winnipeg.

In 1992, Joe was awarded the Hilroy Fellowship Award by the Canadian Teacher’s Federation for his excellence in teaching. Becoming an author was not Joe’s idea. The Manitoba Department of Education approached him to work with Pemmican Publications on books appropriate for Aboriginal children. Joe then embarked on a series of Nanabosho books. His wife, Matrine Therriault McLellan (Ojibway-Cree), co-authors with Joe. She was born in Northern Ontario and spent her early years on the trapline with her maternal grandmother Charlotte Catkins.



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