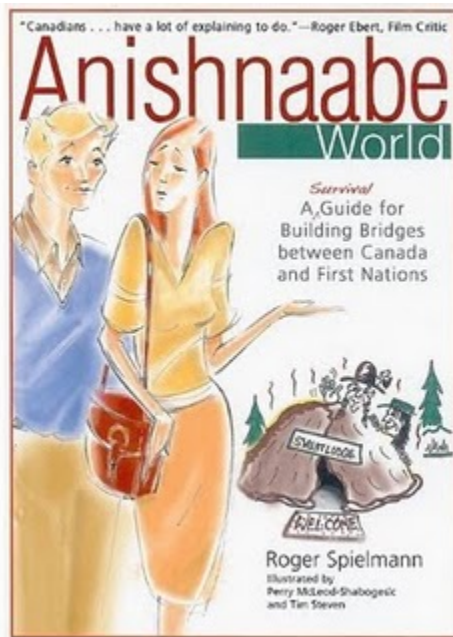


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Posted by Sunshine Morningstar at 10:41 AM

[HTTP://SUNSHINEMORNINGSTAR.BLOGSPOT.COM/2009/10/ANISHNAABE-WORLD.HTML](http://sunshinemorningstar.blogspot.com/2009/10/anishnaabe-world.html)

## Anishnaabe World



By Roger Spielmann

I just finished reading this fantastic book about certain aspects of the Anishnaabe way of life. For those who are unaware, Anishnaabe is probably one of the best terms you can use when referring to the First Nation Peoples in the Algonquin language family (around the Great Lakes). It is a word they might use and we should therefore use it out of respect, unless otherwise informed.

Author Roger Spielman is a non-Anishnaabe man who spent 11 years in the Algonquin community of Pikogan (1979-1990) where he was involved in a number of research, teaching and curriculum projects and was fortunate to become conversationally fluent in the Algonquin language. He is now a Native Studies professor at the University of Sudbury.

His book is funny AND serious, and it's also very easy to understand. He gives basic facts about the Anishnaabe and explains general cultural differences between the First Peoples and Canadians. He also debunks ridiculous myths

(Indians are all Welfare bums) and explains truths that are probably not obvious to some readers (THIS is why the residential school system was so bad...in case you didn't already know!).

Spielman also talks about the Native sense of humour, a bit about the language he learned, a bit about spirituality and he tells many stories from when he lived in Pikogan. Though it is simple in that it doesn't delve TOO deep, it's a wonderful book. I personally believe every Canadian should read it as a starting point in understanding the people who were here long before the white settlers.

Since most Native AND non-Native children go to school nowadays and learn all about "Canadian History" AND since, the First Peoples were here, well, first, I think knowing the truth about our Anishnaabe brothers and sisters is really the only logical thing to do. It's also the polite thing to do!

POSTED BY SUNSHINE MORNINGSTAR AT 10:41 AM