

All ages

Primary and secondary school – Primary – Immersion – First Nations

Julie Gagnon Julie Pellissier-Lush Kenneth Prosper
Emma Hassencahl-Perley

La petite robe rouge
Apje'ji'k Mekwe'k Mtoqan
The Little Red Dress



BOUTON D'OR ACADIE

"My mother taught me the importance of each gesture involved in weaving a basket. Each strip of ash has its place and its strength. Like every woman in a family, in a community."



Synopsis

Sakari loves to rummage through her grandmother's house, but she still doesn't know what's hidden in the woven basket her *nukumi* keeps in the attic. Then, one day, she sees her *nukumi* in tears by the open basket, holding a photo album. Photos that Sakari has never seen prompt the older woman to tell her the story of her younger sister who disappeared shortly after graduating high school. Sakari will help her *nukumi* to free herself from this heavy secret and allow the spirit of the missing young woman to fly away in peace.

This trilingual picture book aims to raise awareness about missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

Features

- An excellent way to explain, without traumatising, the symbolism of red dresses.
- A contemporary story that draws on traditional knowledge, material culture objects and poetry to bring about a realistic yet reassuring ending.
- A multi-generational story that allows for discussion, questioning the past and imagining the future
- The pictorial work of a contemporary Wolastoqwiw artist.

The Little Red Dress

Apje'ji'k Mekwe'k Mtoqan – La petite robe rouge

English Version by Julie Pellissier-Lush

French Version by Julie Gagnon

Illustrations by Emma Hassencahl-Perley

Mi'kmaq Version by Kenneth Prosper



Technical specifications

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About the creators



Julie Pellissier-Lush is a Mi'kmaq storyteller, photographer, actor, drummer, best-selling author, and the first Indigenous Poet Laureate for Prince Edward Island. At her essence, Julie is a cultural teacher and knowledge keeper and through her books, songs, poetry and other creative pursuits,

Julie celebrates and shares the powerful stories of the Mi'kmaq of PEI. She has written several books, including *Mi'kmaq Campfire Stories of Prince Edward Island* (Acorn Press, 2020).



Julie Gagnon grew up in Baie-Comeau, on the North Shore. For the past 27 years, she has lived in Prince Edward Island. A Social pedagogy and nature-based education are at the heart of her educational approach, influencing not only her teaching but also her writing. *The Little Red Dress* marks her debut in

the world of children's literature.



Kenneth Prosper is originally from the Eskasoni First Nation. His main interests are the Mi'kmaq language and genealogy. For 25 years, he was a liaison interpreter in hospitals in the Halifax area. He has also been a member of the Wabanaki Two Spirit Alliance since 2011. In addition to having translated the Mi'kmaq version of *The Little Red Dress*, he contributed to the picture book *Baby Smiles - Weskewikwa'sit mijua'ji'j* (The Tui'kn Partnership, 2023).



Emma Hassencahl-Perley is Wolastoqwiw from Neqotkuk also known as Tobique First Nation in New Brunswick. She is a Visual Artist, Curator, Educator, Author, and Arts Criticism Essayist. Her visual art mediums include beadwork, murals, and digital illustration. *The Little Red Dress* is her first

picture book.

