

FRANKLY FRACKING

In your Fall 2012 issue, Joanna Chiu shared her interview with Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers, one of three Blood women who were arrested in September 2011 for their blockade of fracking vehicles on the Kainai/Blood reserve.

I was surprised that a true hero of this blockade story, Lois Frank, was not even mentioned. Tailfeathers, Jill Crop Eared Wolf and Lois Frank were the three women arrested and charged with intimidation for their courageous blockade, but only Frank fought the charges in court. The other two women agreed to complete an alternative measures program and the charges against them were dropped.

While Tailfeathers went on to publicize the issue with her film, Frank refused to back down and made repeated court appearances. Frank defended her right and that of other members of the Blood Tribe to challenge the decision to allow fracking on their territory. In June 2012, the criminal charges against Lois Frank were finally stayed, and, at the end of October, Frank received the Activist of the Year Award from the Council of Canadians for her courageous work in protesting fracking.

Murphy Oil and Bowwood Energy continue their fracking activities on the Kainai/Blood reserve. And many of the Blood people continue to find ways to resist this threat to their land.

HELEN REZANOWICH
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WALK A MILE

I was delighted to read the wonderful story of Viola Desmond written by Evelyn White and applaud *Herizons* for bringing Desmond's story to light. Readers will be happy to know that Desmond is one of the human rights champions who will be featured in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, opening in Winnipeg in 2014.

Although I lived in Halifax for several years, at no time was Desmond's name ever mentioned, nor did we study her in school. It was only when I became involved in spearheading the creation of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights that I learned of this extraordinary woman who, many years before Rosa Parks, stood up against racial discrimination.

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights will bring our many human rights heroes and heroines to life and underscore the point that ordinary people like Desmond can achieve extraordinary things if they choose to speak out and stand up for human rights. It's a lesson we need to learn more than ever, and the goal of the museum will be to provide a transformational experience that will inspire all visitors to take personal responsibility for the preservation and advancement of human rights, here in Canada and around the world.

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contributors



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Karen Justl is an illustrator fascinated by the neuroscience of facial expression & emotion. Her illustrations have been published across Canada in magazines, on-line and in indie feature films. See more of her work at karenjustl.com.



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BARBARA D. JANUSZ

Barbara D. Janusz holds degrees in arts and laws. She has published essays, poetry and short stories in various literary journals, magazines, newspapers and anthologies. Her recent novel, *Mirrored in the Caves*, is published by Inanna Publications and Education.



LILLIAN ZIMMERMAN

Lillian Zimmerman is a research associate with the Gerontology Research Centre at Simon Fraser University. She is a gerontologist and author with a primary focus on women's issues. Her book *Baglady or Powerhouse: A Roadmap for Midlife (Boomer) Women* was published in 2009.



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