

### **Mary Jane Cazon Biography 1967-2012:**

Mary-Jane Cazon whom is a resident of Fort Simpson NT is a certified fluent language specialist, has 22 years as an interpreter, transcriber and translator with Bompas Elementary School in Fort Simpson NT.

Mary-Jane was born in 1962 raised at Black water till age seven, she moved to Fort Simpson to continue education. Mary Jane had re-written stories, music and prayers while working with youth at Bompas Elementary School to encourage and strengthen uses of the South Slavey Dene language. She started a seasonal cultural camp for Elementary School which to this day is still done. Each spring and fall, she used to take the eager youngsters across the Mackenzie River to the cultural camp where they are taught skills in harvesting, preparation and uses, identify wild plants, tan hides, make bannock and dry meat, and traditionally pay the land with tobacco.

Mary Jane Cazon and her husband, Gilbert, take their four children out to Notana Lake annually for Christmas holidays an hour and a half southeast of Fort Simpson. They also speak Slavey to them. Not every child gets that reinforcement at home, and the 30 minutes of class time alone isn't enough to keep the Dene language strong, she conceded.

"You're taught that you come from the land and when you pass on you go back to the land," she said.

### **Courses Completed from 1986-2008 as Language Cultural Specialist:**

(ITS-219, 100), (ITT-219, 104), (CD, 219, 10), (LAL#1-121), (ART #106), (ALL-2), (LDO-120), (LAI-2 #122) (TA-LSL #126).

**Clients list:** Canadian Zinc, Truth and Reconciliation Committee, Liidlii Kue First Nation, Territorial Elections, Dehcho First Nation, Dene Nation, Enbridge Pipeline, Numerous G,N.W.T Departments, Quicksilver Energy, Mackenzie Valley Review Board, Justice Services, Health and Social Services, DFN Negotiating Team, R.C Church, National Energy Board, Service Canada, G.N.WT Housing, local hospital for elders.

**Communities** I had translated in for clients: Pehdzeh Ki First Nation (Wrigley) Liidlii Kue First Nation (Fort Simpson), Katl'o Dehe Che (Hay River), Zhahti Kue( Fort Providence ), K'agee First Nation, (Kakisa), Inuvik, Fort Good Hope, Deline, Samba Gul I ( Yellowknife), Ehchaot'le Kue( Fort Liard), Tthenaago (Nahanni Butte), Samba K'e (Trout Lake), Ttheke'ehdeli Kue ( Jean-Marie), Edmonton.