

A unique book, *Grandma's Spirit Calling Us Home to Tyendinaga*, is the product of both rigorous research and unusual mediumship. It is both gentle and brutal and is at all times disarmingly honest. It manages to pack a tremendous cultural and spiritual message together with a detailed tracing of the author's ancestors, ancestors who were to play a central role in the development of the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, located in southern Ontario between Toronto and Kingston.

In his intro, **Doug George-Kanentiio**, author and award-winning Mohawk Journalist says, "There is n-thing like *Grandma's Spirit* anywhere else in Iroquois-Indigenous literature, but there should be."

Betty J. Maracle (Katsitsiase), Haudenosaunee Elder and author of *What I Need to Leave Behind* (Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, 2018) states, "Our ancestors, their spirit it is real. And the messages that Fred Leonard got are real. This book reinforces that as long as we listen to the ancestors, as long as we acknowledge them, they will respond to us. That's how I wrote my book as well, I was guided by the ancestors."



Grandma's Spirit's author, **Fred Leonard**, was born on July 5, 1969 in Belleville, Ontario, Canada. Belleville is next door to the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. However he spent most of his early years away. At three years old he moved to Toronto and lived there until he was twenty-three. This is when his great-grandmother's spirit called him back to the place where he was born. He has lived in the Belleville area ever since.

He has helped with the marketing and promotion of two books, *And Grandma Said, Iroquois Teachings*, as passed down through the oral tradition by Mohawk elder Tom Porter (Sakokweni6nkwas) and *What I Need to Leave Behind* by elder Betty Maracle (Katsitsiase).

Both of these highly successful books were edited by Lesley Forrester, the same editor as this book.

Leonard has travelled across North America to meet many elders and learn traditional knowledge, spirituality and history from them. He has done public speaking on environmental issues, Native spirituality, culture and history and is a social activist about Indigenous rights and environmental issues. He has worked on an environmental contaminants research project at Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory in association with Trent University. He has also worked on environmental issues for Canada's Department of National Defence. He has been running his own business for the past nine years.

More recently he joined the Longhouse at Tyendinaga and has been privileged to be firekeeper on numerous occasions.

Fred can be reached by email at leonardfred7@gmail.com and located on Facebook by matching his name with the picture above or searching <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009452982772>.

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Fred Leonard Jr. and Yontheraha:wi

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