

MIRANDA CURRIE

CURIOUS CONNECTIONS - Old Town, Yellowknife



Miranda's voice is clear, melodious, and a joy to listen to as she sings a few lines from one of her songs. "When I harvest food from the land. When I pick berries with my own hands." Miranda, a northern Indigenous artist, uses music, books, and filmmaking to educate people about the north, its culture and its language. The goal of her company, Curious Connections, is to create authentic northern Indigenous content that is accessible to children and families.

Miranda is inspired by children and the need for them to see their culture in media. "Kids are pretty amazing and having the opportunity to work with them every day, I saw the need for them to see more of themselves in mainstream media." "I think that in order to change that Indigenous narrative in Canada, kids need to see the good things about our Indigenous culture. I think that a lot of Indigenous and non-Indigenous kids will be able to see all the cool parts about our culture and really be able to celebrate that."

Miranda is releasing her second children's album, *Tickling the Tiaga*, which follows the first album *Bouncing in the Boreal*. "I use music to help kids learn about Indigenous culture, and specifically language." Miranda's latest book "Fishing with Ehtsee (Grandfather)," which is part of the *Sadie* series, is written in English but has some vocabulary in *Wiilideh*. This format allows the books to be accessible to non-Indigenous teachers and parents while educating all readers on the *Wiilideh* dialect.

To expand her ability to reach her target audience, Miranda expanded into film. Miranda was accepted into National Screen Institute's IndigiDocs training program. She received the mentoring and funding necessary to create *Tails on Ice* through this program. This ten-minute documentary premiered at the Cannes Short Film Festival and played at the Yellowknife International Film Festival. The film portrays the first expedition of Ellesmere, her sled dog. "The unique thing about it is that it's told from Ellesmere's point of view, and so that helped to make it more accessible to children and families."

This summer, while playing at *Folks on the Rocks*, Miranda saw the difference her efforts were making. "The kids were singing along with me. These kids are singing it. Indigenous kids, non-Indigenous kids, families around, and I was just like, that's the reward. That was such a beautiful moment to see. To see those kids engaging with my song and the lyrics that they represent, we're moving towards changing that Indigenous narrative in Canada."

Miranda credits the Akaitcho Business Development Corporation with helping her apply for loans and grants and helping her build financial credibility. "I'm a creative, so learning the more linear financial business part of things has been really beneficial to me."

Miranda encourages entrepreneurs to persevere and focus on problem-solving. "When everything is seeming like you can't, problem-

solve on your own, call someone up. Put a message on Facebook asking for advice. And for me, anyway, inevitably, someone pops up. Someone says something to get me through that next hurdle." "That's what I like learned from my dad. He just kept always going. And I could see the stress that he had, but he always found the solutions in the end to the problems."

"If I was going to take this journey again, I'd start earlier. I think I hesitated for a long time about my true purpose. I would just be more confident earlier. And I would know this is what I am supposed to be doing. So, create that for yourself. And go forward in a good way."

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