

Faith Alger

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English 4470

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Self-Location Assignment

My name is Faith Alger. I am the daughter of Connie MacDonald Alger and Steven Alger. My ancestry on my mother's side is Scottish and French-Canadian. My maternal great great grandfather, Frank Soucy, was born in St. Angele, Quebec. He and his wife, Marie Anna, and their two children, Paul (my great grandfather) and Delima, moved to Arborfield, Saskatchewan to homestead in 1910. My great grandfather Paul and his wife, Lorette, also homesteaded east of Arborfield with their four children, Irene (my grandmother), Aurel, Rita, and Laurent. My grandmother Irene married my grandfather, Allan MacDonald, in Arbourfield where they lived for a time before moving to Winnipeg, Manitoba. They relocated to Kamloops in 1970 for my grandfather to work at the LaFarge Cement Plant. My maternal grandfather's ancestors immigrated to Canada from Scotland, but it is unknown when they immigrated or what brought them here.

On my father's side my ancestors originate from Germany, Ireland, and Wales. My paternal great great grandfather, Ludwig Fitz, was born in Germany and raised in Poland. In 1896, he and his first wife, Helena, immigrated to Canada after hearing rumours that the land was plentiful and easy to obtain. After arriving in Canada, they settled in Leduc, Alberta. Ludwig's daughter, Arpa (my great grandmother), moved from Leduc to the coast of British Columbia at the age of 21. Arpa and her husband had one child, Terrence (my grandfather), and

lived in various places on the coast. In 1990, my grandfather and grandmother, Nancy, and their two children, Steven (my father) and Jason, moved to Kamloops for my grandfather's work.

I was born and raised in Kamloops on the traditional and unceded land of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc. I grew up not knowing the full history of the land that I lived on. I have vague recollections of learning about the First Nations of Canada in elementary school, but only recently have I begun to learn the history of this land I call my home. Part of this learning has been understanding how I, as a white settler of European heritage living in post-colonial Canada, benefit from colonial systems. I have always had access to good education, healthcare, and clean drinking water. I have not experienced the intergenerational trauma caused by the residential school system. I recognize that I am very privileged to be learning about Canada's history and on-going legacies of colonialism second-hand rather than experiencing it first-hand and I am so incredibly grateful to be living and learning on the traditional and unceded land of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc.