

Marlene Stately, Leech Lake, speaks about good health, ways the language was suppressed, assimilation, boarding schools and the importance of the Ojibwe language.

1. Anangookwe indizhinikaaz. Makwa indoodem. Zhaaganaashiikaazoyaan dash Marlene Stately.
Star Woman is my name. Bear is my clan. Marlene Stately is my English name.

2. Niminwendam owe izhichigeyaan ji babizindaagowaan owe ojibwemowaan, anishinaabwemowaan.

I am happy to be doing this that I am listened to, speaking Ojibwe.

3. Niigaan ogowe giniijaanisinaanig ji babizindamowaad owe nakeyaa ge-ani-izhi-gaagiigidowaad.
Our children come first,so that they can listen to the way we speak

4. Niiwiwag niniijaanisag. Bezhig idash ningii-wani'aa.

I have four children. And I lost one.

5. Mii dash owe ashi-naanan dashiwag noozhisheyag.

And then I have fifteen grandchildren.

6. Niizhing idash nindaanikoobijige.

And I have two great-grandchildren.

7. Naano-biboon idash awashime gii-maada'adood ninaabem.

My husband died over five years ago.

8. Ginwenzh ningii-wiji-ayaawindimin.

We were together for a long time.

9. Bezhig eta ningozis nindayaanaan, nindayaawaanaan.

We have one son of our own.

10. Gakina niniijaanisag anishinaabenikaazowag, owiiyawen'eyan ayaawag.

All of my children have Anishinaabe names, they have namesakes.

11. Miinawaa go nindaanikoobijiganag, gakina gaye anishinaabenikaazowaad.

And also my great-grandchildren, they all have Anishinaabe names.

12. Miinawaa go iye ezhigoseyaan nakeyaa. Apegish igo gakina oshkinawewag mikamowaad odoodemowaad.

And I wish that, I hope that all young people find their clans.

13. Omikaagowaan ji babaa-gikinoo'amaagewaad.

When they know their clans they can teach (the clans)

14. Gaawiin ninde'apiitizisii gakina gegoo ji dazhindamaan.

I am not quite old enough to talk about everything.

15. Miinawaa igo apane gego bishigwaadenimaaken giiji-anishinaabe,

And don't always think sexual things about your fellow Anishinaabe,

16. Igo weweni odaapin anishinaa bebakaan ge wiinawaa gikinoo'amaagowaad

Accept them for who they are because they have their own teachings from their

17. ogitiziimiwaan weweni ge wiinawaa ji anishinaabemowaad.

Parents, so they can speak their own Anishinaabe.

18. Noongom idash gegaa wansin gakina gegoo ezhi-gaagiigidowing, anishinaabemowing.

As of today almost all of the native language is lost.

19. Apegish igo azhe-mamiigaadeg noongom jibaajii maajitaamagak ji maamookanaawaad odoodemiwaan giniijaanisinaanig, goozhishenaanig miinawaa gidaanikoobijiganaanig.

I wish that we could bring it back today, so it can start so that our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren can recognize their clans.

20. Anishinaa mii iye ge weweni gii-jiichigeng owe kino'amaageyang.

That is why we are teaching it the right way.

21. Naagaj ji biziskendamowaad nage iye ezhi-wiiji'awangwaa gidinawemaaganag, gidinawemaaganaanig.

So later they take interest so we can help your relatives, all our relatives.

22. Mii iwe bebaamosewaad, bebaamisewaad iwe nibiikaang eyaadijig.

As they walk, as they fly, in the water, the living things,

23. nawe anangoog awe gaye dibiki-giizis weweni ge ji minjimendamowaad o’o ezhi-chaakendamang ge giinawind.

As well as the stars, the moon and the sun, so that they remember how happy we are (the sun, moon, stars are watching us how happy we are, when our children learn know our language then they will be happy too)

24. Ege kaajige, anishinaa mii o’o wenji-maawanji’idiyang noongom.

And that’s why we are meeting today.

25. Dibishkoo gaawiin ge gwayak okeyaa ni-ikidosiimin owe dibishkoo zagaswe’idiyang owe wawiidokodaadiyang ji kino’amaagowaang.

But some do not say it the same way, as we have our meetings, as we are trying to help each other to learn the teachings,

26. naago ge niinawind igo ji gikendaasowaang aaniin nake ezhitwaawaad imaa.

So we can learn their ways, too.

27. Bebezhigo ishkoniganing wenjibaa’aang.

As we come from different reservations.

28. Miinawaa go’ozhitwaa’ang mii e ezhi-wanising, ezhi-begizid biinisikaagowaad, ezhi-gikendamowaad awe oshkinawe.

And the way we are over here, and that is lost too, individually there is something interfering, as the way the young people think.

29. Apegish weweni ge wiinawaa ji babaa-kinoo’amaagoziwaad iwidi nashke aa zhawendaagoziwaad.

I wish they would learn their teachings over there, or someone is kind enough to take them in to share the teachings.

30. Giishpin geget mamiinigoziwaad yeah waanii izhichigewaad oshkinaweg ininiwag naa go ikwewag.

If they receive a gift, the young men and women make mistakes.

31. Anishinaa ge niin nimishomis gii-onjibaa Zhaaganaashii keyaa ge wiinawaa gii-bi- oshki-
ininiwid.

My grandfather came from where the white people live when he was a young man.

32. Mii ge wiin imaa gii-pi-izhiwinind.

That is there that they brought him.

33. Naawii gwane nokomisiban ani anikoobijigan, neniizh anikoobijige.

Naawii gwana, my late great-grandmother, two greats. (great-great grandmother)

Mii ge wiinawaa imaa Misi-Zaaga'iganing gaa-onjibaawaad, gaa-onjibaad.

It is there at Mille Lacs, where they came from, she came from.

34. Na ge niin nokomis ge wiin gookosimin ge wiin igo imaa gii-ondaadizid Misi-Zaaga'iganing.

My grandmother was born at Mille Lacs.

35. Niinawind idash gii-ondaadiziyaang Gaa-Zagaskwaajimekaag.

We were born at Leech Lake.

36. Naa go geget ingii-kinoo'amaagomin iye ji wiidigemaasiwang naasaab owe odoodemiwaad.

We were taught not to marry within our clans.

37. Geget imaa ji nigaa'ang owe noozhishenaanig.

If you marry into your clan, the consequences may appear later, to your grandchildren.

39. Mii sa ge wiin gaa-wiidigemag bakaaniziwan odoodeman.

The one that I was married to had a different clan.

40. Anishinaa mii iye gaa-gikinoo'amaagowaan.

And that is what I was taught.

41. Miinawaa go'o ge niin niwii-gikinoo'amawaag niijaanisag,

And that is what I am teaching my children,

42. Bakaan ge wiinawaa odoodemiwaan ji megwe wiidige ji anwe gego ji izhiwebizisiwaad noozhishenyag.

To marry a different clan so that the grandchildren will not see the consequences.

43. Anishinaa mewinzha Chaachaabaaning gii ayaayaan.

Long ago I was at Chaachaabaaning.

44. Amanj igo apii iye gaa-ondaadiziyaan ge niin,

Whenever I was born,

45. Mii dash imaa gaye gii-maajiigoziyaan.

It was there that I was leaving.

46. Anishinaa nimbaabaa-iban, Gineyaab, gii-izhinikaazo

My father was called Gineyaab.

47. Naa nimaamaa Mizhakijjiwanok gii-izhinikaazo.

My mother was named Mizhakijjiwanok.

48. Idash gaagii-ikidowaad gichi gigizheb, aaniin mii iye wewiiba ji maajiigoziyang

As they say we will be leaving early in the morning

49. Gii-ikidowag gichi-gigizheb idash dazhi-gaagiigidowaad

As they were talking

50. Naske awe oshkiniigikwewag miinawaa go gwiiwizensag

These young women and young men

51. Maajii-biziskenimaawaad owe gwiiwizensag owe ikwezensag owe gwiiwizensag

biziskenimaawaan o'o gaawiin gidaa-izhichigaanaasiimin gaye gozhishenyan.

As the elders start to notice the young men and young women

52. Mii go ji maajiigoziyang iwidi ji gabeshinang waakaayaakewin iwidi giniijaanisinaan ji degiizhigewaad.

Then they are getting ready to leave the camp over there our children finish the camp.

53. Mii dash owe gaawiin gidaa-izhichigaanaasiiwaanaan.

This is something that we shouldn't do to them.

54. Miinawaa giiyaanikobijiganaan.

And our great-grandchildren.

55. Mii sa go geget gii-maajigoziyaang idash iwidi odenaang akiing Ondaasamabaagaadawaaning izhinikaade.

So we are leaving over there in the town area, Ondaasamabaagaadawaaning it is called,

56. Gaa-Zagaskwaajimekaag ishkoniganing imaa waabanong nakeyang.

East of Leech Lake reservation.

57. Mii imaa gii-nitaawigi'igowaang.

That's where we were raised.

58. Mii dash geget gaa-ezhiwebak,

As it turned out,

59. Nimiigwechiwendam sa go gakeyaa sa go nimbaabaa nimaamaa gii-izhichigewaad igo gii-maajigoziyaang.

I am thankful to my dad and mom for what they did, for moving us.

60. Dibishkoo nimiigwechiwendam nimiigwechi'aag sa go geyaabi o'o gikinoo'amaagoyaan I'I, aanawi go gii, sangendamaan.

61. I am also thankful, I thank them still for teaching me this, even though it was hard.

gaawiin awiia niwiji-odaminomaasiiwaanaan.

We didn't have anyone to play with.

62. Niinetawind imaa keyaa ezhi-abinoojiiwiyaang.

Just us kids.

63. Mii dash o noongom wenji-pabaamendamaan gikinoo'amaagewin ge wiinawaa nitaa-gaagiigidowaad igi giniijaanisinaanig.

And that is why I am working with the teachings now, as our children learn how to speak.

64. Naa go zaziikiziwaad anishinaa iwidi ishpi-gikinoo'amaageyaan.

As I teach the older children,

65. Mii go imaa awiia onijjaanisan booch bi-gikendaasod.

That is where people's children learn.

66. Noongom idash ge niin nimiigwechiwendam o ezhi-ashi-zhaangaswi, zhaangasimidana zhaangaswi, 1999.

Today I am also thankful, that it is 1999.

67. Mii dash owe noongom Waabigwani-giizis ashi-niswi giizhigak.

And today is May 13.

68. Ge niin mamiigwechiwendamaan gii-anawenimigosiwaan ge niin ji gikinoo'amaageyaan, ji gaagiigidoshiyaan.

I am also thankful for being thought of, for me to speak and teach.

69. Anishinaa gaawiin indinemisii ge niin ji gaagiigidotamawag ogo gikaajig.

As I don't feel that I have the knowledge to speak to the elders.

70. Mii eta go niin zaziikiziyaan omaa endazhiyaang.

I am older only here in my home.

71. Niminwenimaan nimaamaa nimbaabaa onijjaanisiwaan.

I am proud to be my mom and dad's child.

72. Waaba'iganing nindibendaagoz dewe'igan noomayaa gaye noomag ingii-ganawaabamigoo aaniin keyaa enaadiziyaan, aaniish ezhichigeyaana, aaniin kina gaye kino'amaawagwaa niniijaanisag.

I belong in the Waaba'iganing Drum, and I had been watched to see if I was capable or worthy of belonging (to the drum), I was also watched as to how I preached to my children,

73. Aaniish na gaye ezhichigaanagwaa noozhishenyag.

And also my grandchildren.

74. Wiinge goshko'igo gaye gii-onabii'igowaan dewe'iganing.

I was very surprised and honored to belong on the drum.

75. Anishinaa mii owe noongom wenji-ogichidaakwewiyaan.

And that is why I am Ogichidaakwe today.

76. Mii go iwesa gaa-izhi-ganoonigowaan odaapinigowaan sa go.

That is what they said when they accepted me.

77. Biinish igo weweni o'o nisidotaagoziyaan ekidoyaan.

As I am being understood, as what I am saying.

78. Anishinaa zanagad o'o izhigaabowing naa dash iwe booch igo ji anokiiyaan ji ashandizoyaan naangoji ji bimaadiziyaan.

As it is hard to stand this way, as I know I have to work and feed myself and to live.

79. Booch igo meshkodonaajigan gashki'ag weweni ji wiisiniyaan wenji-biizikoneyaan.

As I have to make money, to eat and clothe myself.

80. Booch gaa-izhichige iwe ji gikinoo'amawagwaa niniijaanisag.

And also as I teach my children.

81. Onakey'ii ezhitwaawaan ezhi-bimoseyaan, ezhi-apiitendamaan o'o anishinaabe miikana bimoseyaan.

As I know the way to walk my traditional road.

82. Anishinaa mii iyen ezhi-azhiikino'amaagoyaan okaaji ji debwendamaan, ji debwenimag gaye dewe'igan, ji debwenimag gaye naa wenji-bizindamaan.

That's the way I was taught, and that is the way that I believe and believe in the drum, as I believe in my spirit.

83. Ingodwaak awashime gii-apiitizi owe akiwenzii.

This old man was over 100 years of age.

84. Bezhigogaabo gaa-izhinikaazod.

His name was Bezhigogaabo.

85. Mii ge wiin awe gaa-gikinoo'amawid.

Some of my teachings came from him.

86. Gii-bimose ko odenaang gii-pi-dagoshing Chaachaabaaning, gii-pi-maajaad.

He walked to town, as he left Chaachaabaaning.

87. Gii-pi-gikinoo'amawid.

He taught me.

88. Mii imaa ji ni-namadabiyan ngii-ig.

He told me to sit here.

89. Gii-zanagendaan ako iwe nandomig.

I used to think it was so hard, why is he asking me to come over now?

90. Gii-nandomid omaa ji namadabiyaan ji babizindawag.

When he asked me to come here and sit here and listen to him.

91. Mii sa go geget gaa-izhichigeyaan.

So I did anyway.

92. Geget igo gaye ingii-bizindam, bizindawaa a'aw akiwenzii.

And I did listen to the old man.

93. Naa go ge wiin Wegidibiise gaa-izhinikaazod.

And his name was Wegidibiise.

94. Mii ge wiin awe gikinoo'amaaged.

And he was also a teacher.

95. Ge wiin gaa-giikwed.

He was a traditional teacher.

96. Anishinaa niibiish ina bakwezhigan ningii-izhiwinaanaan owi bizindawagwaa o ininiwag gii-wiindamawaad gegoo.

I used to also to take some tea and bread to the men when I listened to them telling stories.

97. Mii dash imaa gaa-ondinamaan bimaadiziwin noongom epiitizimaan.

And that's where I gained the life that I have, as old as I am today.

98. Ashi-naanan ingodwaaswi nindapiitiz noongom.

I am 65 years old now.

99. Mii dash imaa geget ningii-pizindam gegoo.

And I truly listened to the teachings.

100. Bangii eta go wenji-gikendamaan.

As little as I know.

101. Gii-pizindamaan gegikaajig ningii-pizindam.

As I listened to the elders, I listened.

102. Naa go ingitiziimag e gaye gaa-izhi-aanikobijigeyaan ge wiinawaa igo gaye ningii-gikinoo' aag.

And also my parents and what I learned I am teaching to my great-grandchildren

103. Naa go gaye aadizookaanan biboong ingii-pizindamawaa.

And I also listened to the legends in the winter time.

104. Gaye nimishomis, gookomisinaan gaye ge wiinawaa gii-aadizookewaad.

Also my grandfather and my grandmother they told legends.

105. Anishinaa mii imaa gikinoo'amaading gegoo.

That's where the teachings come from.

106. Geget, geget gegoo apiitendaagwad o' o ezhitwaawaang igo gegoo ji bisikendang o' o anishinaabemowin.

And it is very important to listen and follow our ways as anishinaabe people.

107. Gakina ebimaadiziwaad anishinaabemowaad.

All Indian people should speak their native language.

108. Booch igo bangii eta go gii-miskwiinayaa anishinaabewiyeg.

Even if there is very little Indian blood in you,

109. Booch igo giga-mikaan geget anishinaabe.

You will find that you are truly Indian.

110. Mii go ji maajii-wiigoshkayeg ji izhitwaayeg, ji gikendameg, ji gikendamowaad gaye ezhitwaawaad igo gidanishinaabeg, giwiji-anishinaabemong, ji anishinaabemoyeg.

You will be pulled to the ways of the Anishinaabe people, to speak and to learn our cultural values.

111. O'o gaye wiigwaasi-makak eyaabajitooyaan minjiminamaan omaa noongom.

As I use my birchbark basket, holding on to it here now,

112. Betoosh gaye gegaa wanigiizhwe,

Gee, I almost made a mistake,

113. Bezhiig gwayakosing gakina gegoo endazhindamaan.

As I speak the truth of the things that I talked about

114. Niigaan igo ji ani-wawiidokaazowaad oshkinaweg enii-gikendamowaad o'o edazhi-gaagiigidowaad.

As the young people help to learn as I talk about this,

115. Weweni ge ji babizindawaawaad.

And to truly listen

116. Geget ji nendaagwak o'o iwe zhaazhawenim.

To truly find the loving way of learning,

117. Miinawaa go gaye giga-odaminom ji minowaanigotooneg maajii-anishinaabemoyeg.

And also to have fun as you learn to speak your (anishinaabe) language.

118. Geget igo apiitendaagwad o’o ji gikendameg.

Because it is very important for you to learn.

119. Anishinaa mii ge naasaab iye wiigwaasi-mitig gegoo owe wenjigaag.

Just as the birch tree gives its sap

120. Mii go ji gikendameg aaniish wenji-ayaayaang o’o noongom.

Then you will know why you are here today!

121. Naa go asemaa aaniish wenji-aabaji’ang.

And you will learn why we use tobacco.

122. Mii geget iy niigaan.

That is what’s number one.

123. Niigaan igo ji gikendameg.

That’s what is number one for you to learn.

124. Naa go konaasan anishinaa bagijigan gimaa miinigo, ji bemowaan imaa, ji kinoo’amaageyaa, ji gaganootamawag o’o ewaabishkiiwewaad..

And also the blankets, offerings being given, before I start my teaching, as I speak for the white people.

125. Enawanikaning gekinoo’amaagewaad.

And also the teachers.

126. Gegaa igo ezhi-niigaaniziwaad manidog weweni ji zhawenimaawaad I’I wanigiizhiweyaan.

I ask the lead spirits for forgiveness for the ones who are speaking with mistakes (perhaps for speaking another language—english)

127. Booch igo ji gwayakisidoowaad.

As they will correct

128. Geget igo gegaa ko nigwiinawi ikid.

The ones that have been missed.

129. Anishinaa nimbaabizidaagoog ayaajig nawaj wiinawaa zaziikiziwaad.

As the elders listen to what I say

130. Pij idash niin ezhi-kinoo'amaagewaad gabekaa gikendaasowag.

Their teachings are more valuable than mine.

131. Dibishkoo bangii eta go niin ningikendaan.

As I know very little myself.

132. Gaawiin nonigo ningikendanziin.

I don't know.

133. Bangii eta go anishinaa amanj minik imaa ge-izhi-gaagiigidowaan.

Only a little bit whenever I speak.

134. Mii sa go minik dawaajigonaa noongom.

I guess that will be enough for now.