

WOMEN_CKUUW_APRIL CHERPAW

One of the most difficult challenges we face as a society is holding responsible respected members of our communities when they are alleged to have committed acts of abuse.

This piece makes an appeal for our communities to bravely confront the abusers in our midst. It contains audio from a talk at a spring 2012 gathering in Sagkeeng First Nation. The gathering was focused on violence against women and how to stop it. One of the participants, Kimlee Wong, gave an emotional presentation which highlighted the sexual violence rampant in our communities. She then quietly began speaking about the sexual abuse she endured as a child. Her voice conveyed the pain she felt as she recollected this difficult experience.

The excerpts of her speech revealed how she endured abusive relationships for protection, and how she appealed to the wider community to break through the silence for the sake of the children.

After the two year old audio was aired, Kimlee was interviewed on live radio by host April Cherpaw. Together, the two further examined how the instinctive desire for communities to keep secrets hidden are leaving children vulnerable, and how these victims remain haunted well into adulthood.

The audio from the 2012 talk was recorded by Diane Melee of CFWE radio.