

Bio: Irkar Beljaars is a Metis from Montreal who has been working at CKUT 90.3FM as a journalist, producer and host of Native Solidarity News (NSN) for 7 years. Besides NSN, Irkar has been part of CKUT's Homelessness Marathon, helped to organize the Day of Action in Montreal and Day of Justice in Ottawa, and has organized The [Sisters in Spirit](#) Vigil which has taken place in Montreal since 2007 on October the 4th. He is currently lobbying the government with the Families of Sisters in Spirit to re-fund the Sisters in Spirit initiative, which the government tragically de-funded in 2010.

Beljaars's latest project is a podcast called Red Power Radio formerly called the Longhouse – you can find it [here](#). He is also writing a play based on the lives of women who have gone missing and been murdered in Canada – stay tuned!

He was also the producer of The Longhouse on Forget the Box Television, a Montreal-based online media collective. The webcast highlighted one specific issue each episode and viewers were invited to ask questions via chat.

Native Solidarity News is a national radio service and part of an international network of information and action in support of indigenous peoples' survival and dignity. We are all volunteers committed to promoting Native self-determination, culturally, economically, spiritually and otherwise. The show is self-sufficient, without government or corporate funding.

Produced at CKUT community radio since 1996, NSN is now also broadcast on CFBU St. Catherines, CHLS Lillooet, CHMA Sackville, CHSR Fredericton, CJLY Kootenay Coop Radio, CJSF Burnaby, and Radio 90 Banff.

We try to make each 60-minute program as welcoming and challenging to someone who has never heard of the issues as it is to a longstanding follower. Each week, you can enjoy short news and an in-depth feature - including background information, interviews with people directly involved with the issue, contacts, and pointers for action - interwoven with music, readings, and film excerpts.