

## **Reconciliation**

By Rebecca Tabobodung

**We are waking up to our history  
from a forced slumber  
We are breathing it into our lungs  
so it will be part of us again  
It will make us angry at first  
because we will see how much you stole from us  
and for how long you watched us suffer  
we will see how you see us  
and how when we copied your ways  
it killed our own**

**We will cry and cry and cry  
because we can never be the same again  
But we will go home to cry  
and we will see ourselves in this huge mess  
and we will gently whisper the circle back  
and it will be old and it will be new**

**Then we will breathe our history back to you  
you will feel how strong and alive it is  
and you will feel yourself become a part of it  
And it will shock you at first  
because it is too big to see all at once  
and you won't want to believe it  
you will see how you see us  
and all the disaster in your ways  
how much we lost**

**And you will cry and cry and cry  
because we can never be the same again  
But we will cry with you  
and we will see ourselves in this huge mess  
and we will gently whisper the circle back  
and it will be old and it will be new**

*Rebecca Tabobodung, a member of the Wasauksing First Nation (Parry Island, Ontario), is a poet, activist, and filmmaker. She lives in Toronto.*

This poem appears in *A Healing Journey for Us All*, United Church of Canada, p11