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***Calling Forth A Nation***

***By Rawle James***

Our hopes and dreams soar on the wings of the great eagle  
as she lays witness to our collective spirit   
running wild and free   
like the mighty herds of buffalo and caribou   
wisdom sits on the branch of the old birch tree   
in the form of a snow owl as she stands watch   
perched with guarded optimism   
of what lies around the bend  
   
we are a people forged from the courage of the original newcomers   
who sought refuge fueled by a vision quest of a new beginning  
we stand on the backs of mighty people from many nations  
like the Inuit, Haida, Okanagan, Nakota, Algonquian,Innu,   
who's sacrifice of  living as strangers upon their own land  
laid the foundation the for French, British, Dutch, Metis   
memories of their blood sweat and tears flow from all the waters   
as All our ancestors await our awakening  
their voices echo across every valley and inlet, from every shoreline  
to the highest mountaintops  
across the bountiful prairies  
their spirit can be seen in the magnanimous colours   
of the seasons to remind the people   
of our rich heritage that embraces the good...the bad  
whispers carry seeds of change   
voiced like the cold fog breathe of howling wolves  
whose cries haunt our memories of days gone by

Today, I call forth a nation  
one where the practice is of being human  
where the status quo is empathy not fear  
a new nation whose super natural beauty   
is beyond mere flesh and bones   
for all existence is birth from the labour of Love   
of our great Mother

Today, I call forth a nation   
whose ebb in flow with the energies   
of acceptance and respect  
our potential to live in harmony with the land   
lies with our ability to live   
in harmony with each other  
to live let live harm no other   
   
Today, I call forth a nation   
who is worthy of a better tomorrow   
Now  
a people ready to fulfil their potential   
knowing the wisdom we seek   
lies in our past   
when looked upon with Love  
the promise that is Canada   
lies not perched on a pedestal   
for we are the pedestal   
of which her foundation is built  
   
Today, I call forth a nation   
whose diversity of landscapes  
is reflected by the diversity of her people   
the dreams and hopes that is Canada   
fuels the warrior poet to battle injustice   
with words of inclusion and equity   
let us venture beyond time and space   
to see that the needs and wants of our ancestors   
do not differ from Us today  
and the truth of their day   
connects to the truth of our day  
for we are not separate from life  
we are Life  
   
let us dance, sing and rejoice   
as we reframe the conditioning  
let the light of our Love   
create a new affirmation of peace and prosperity  
worry not of our legacy   
for it will be written based on what we do   
Now  
and in this Now   
let us remember the greatest of a country   
lies not in her government but with her people  
and as a people  
let us be mindful, humble and inviting  
be patient, kind, generous, gentle, joyous  
choose to be of service  
let us embrace in this moment of Us  
our native land is Mother Earth  
Oh Canada our chosen home  
We stand on guard for me, you, Us  
this is where we live  
Today, I call forth a new nation