Muskwa
FEARLESS DEFENDER OF NATURAL LAW

#2
FREE

Bearpaw Legal Education Comics
www.bearpaweducation.ca
Funded by the Alberta Law Foundation
Muskwa: Fearless Defender of Natural Law

About BearPaw Legal Education

BearPaw Legal Education is a program offered by Native Counselling Services of Alberta and funded by the Alberta Law Foundation aimed at helping Aboriginal people navigate the legal system and gain awareness of their legal rights. Founded in 2007 as the Alberta Aboriginal Legal Education Centre, BearPaw Education fulfills its mandate by providing free-of-charge legal education workshops in small and large communities across Alberta and distributing print resources through our wide network of branch and regional offices as well as through our many partners in Alberta and elsewhere. BearPaw Education also features a resource library located at the NCSA head office in Edmonton, which offers interlibrary loan services with various university and college library systems, as well as a website featuring publications for download and legal education videos courtesy of BearPaw Media Productions.

BearPaw Education covers a wide range of topics of importance to the Aboriginal community in its workshops and resources, seeking always to respond to new and emerging needs. Past topics include child welfare, parenting rights and responsibilities, criminal court procedures, Aboriginal hunting and fishing rights, landlord and tenant rights, and identity theft. BearPaw aims to reach the widest possible spectrum of people, targeting youth and adults, urban and rural, on and off reserve. We encourage you to let us know what you think of our resources and to recommend new topics and resource materials either by contacting us directly or by completing our resource evaluation form, which is available on our website.

This was produced by BearPaw Legal Education (www.bearpaweducation.ca) and funded by the Alberta Law Foundation.
Aboriginal people have always lived by Natural Law.

These laws tell people, young and old, how they should respect the land, the animals, the water and each other.

Natural Law says that every living thing is connected and when people follow Natural Law, the environment is healthy...

...and tests you when you least expect it!

People have enough to eat and the land and the animals will flourish for future generations.

Natural Law always rules...

...and tests you when you least expect it!
SOOO... GOT ANY DUCT TAPE?

WE'RE GONNA NEED WAYYY MORE THAN THAT TO GET US OUT OF HERE.
MEANWHILE, NEARBY IN THE FOREST...

This is Muskwa.

W-W-W-WE GOT THREE KIDS LOST AND BROKEN DOWN...

OK, RAVEN, IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP THESE CHILDREN SAFE.

I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THAT IS.

This land will be unforgiving if they don't know the laws of nature.

Meanwhile, nearby in the forest...

9 MILES E-EAST OF NOWHERE VALLEY AND 7 MILES N-N-NORTH OF THAT PLACE WE CAN NEVER FIND.
Should I send our top secret super elite s-s-s-spies to keep an eye on the children?

Yes, we'll need our best and brightest on this one.

Deploy the Prairie Chickens!

Super Elite GPS Spy Squad

As night began to fall...

So what are we gonna do? We're like 20 miles from home.

Just so you know, this is Canada, man. We use kilometres around here.

Tell that to the cougars.

G'poonwull
Isaiah, you think you can fix the go-kart?

I dunno Sam, we got no tools, no phone, no food... what are we going to do?

Get some sleep and we'll figure it out in the morning...

If we make it that long.

The next morning.

The two young hunters stalk their prey. Seeking food, needing sustenance. And then...

Prairie Chickens!

Kill him!
PRAIRIE CHICKEN DOWN!!
PRAIRIE CHICKEN DOWN! HE'S WOUNDED!!

Muskwa, you are not going to b-b-believe what just happened!

SHOULD WE LOOK FOR HIM?

Nahh, he's probably gone by now. There'll be more.

Muskwa, you are not going to b-b-believe what just happened!

I DUNNO... MAYBE.

DID YOU HIT HIM?
They shouldn't have never let that prairie chicken suffer. Those kids just broke a Natural Law. When we hunt, we do it with respect, because that animal is a gift and we need to be grateful that it's giving up its life for us.

The consequences are grave.

If I don't make it, what will my life have meant???

It would have been an honourable way to go, to give up your life for food, to be part of Nature's cycle....

It would have been a great sacrifice for a great sob! sob! brother!!

Three measly chickens, those are the only animals we see all day?? It's like we were...jinxed.

Later that day.

The creator won't have it a-a-any other way.
NO FOOD. WE GOT SKUNKED.

Perfect! The kids are falling right into my trap!

If they continue like this, respect and balance will never return - and then I can take over the forest, and no one, not even Muskwa, will be able to stop my domination!!!
I just received a telegram message from our super elite GPS spy squad - updating us on the kids. It says that Mitch's wing was damaged by Sam's spear but he'll be ok. They want to return to the kids' camp to continue their surveillance.

That's good, Raven. I need you to join the prairie chickens and keep an eye on the kids. You got it!!

But before we do anything...

I'll give this tobacco to Sam. For Cree people tobacco is sacred, and if Sam wants to make things right, he'll know what to do with it.
I want the truth!

You can't handle the truth!!!!

Wait a minute, why am I yelling at a prairie chicken?!

Wake up!!! Shake and bake!!! You're having flashbacks, man!!!

...you can't handle the...

Pull yourself together, man!!

Soooo thirsty...

We need to go visit Sam. We need him to make it right.
YOU JUST SPEARED THE PRAIRIE CHICKEN AND LET HIM ROT????!!

I THINK SO...

THAT WAS SUPPER! PLUS, YOU JUST CAN’T DO THAT... LEAVE HIM... THAT’S SO... SO... DIS-RESPECTFUL!

I KNOW, THAT CHICKEN WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO OFFER UP HIS LIFE FOR US...

FOR US TO EAT... AND THEN WE GOT... SKUNKED.

THAT’S KARMA. THAT’S WHAT MOOSHEM CALLS NATURAL LAW BALANCING THINGS OUT...

YOU DIDN’T DESERVE ANOTHER ANIMAL YESTERDAY... AND WE SUFFERED! WE NEED TO START DOING THINGS IN A GOOD WAY SO WE CAN GET HOME!

WHAT’S THAT?

IT’S SOMETHING THAT WE NEED TO DO.
Sam, look! It’s that chicken we wounded yesterday!

Hey, bust out the GPS. Muskwa will want to know the kids’ location. He says he’s worried about the cougar in the area.

Uhh, do you know where the manual is?

He’s lookin’ a little rough.

Finally! Food! Get him!

I’m making an offering to the creator, asking him to provide for us...

So we’re not eating him?

Good-bye delicious lunch!

Shoo! Shoo! You chickens go back to the bush!

No Isaiah, let’s leave them be. Because sometimes, in order to take, we need to give first.

...and the prairie chickens.

Meanwhile, the prairie chickens continue their surveillance...
Wow I just got some great P-P-Polaroids! Muskwa will be so m-p-p-pressed!

IT SEEMS THAT YOUNG SAM IS FINALLY STARTING TO UNDERSTAND HOW HIS BEHAVIOUR IMPACTS THE NATURAL WORLD...

I'M HAPPY TO SEE THE KIDS GETTING BACK ON SOLID GROUND!

DONT BOTHER, THE CHICKENS TEXTED ME A PICTURE.

THEY'RE A LITTLE F-F-FUZZY B-B-BUT...

...NO MATTER HOW SMALL THE ACT MAY SEEM.

N-N-NATURAL LAW... YOU GET BACK WHAT YOU PUT IN....
This tea should keep us warm.

You need to take!

...are being weak!

C-c-cougar has attacked the kids!

He must be trying to create imbalance in the forest.

Only the strong survive in the forest.

Should have 'er fixed by sundown.

And you...
THESE PLANTS, THESE ANIMALS DESERVE NO RESPECT!

THEY ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A MEANS TO AN END – TO BE USED, CONSUMED, SOLD!

THAT IS TRUE NATURAL LAW!

YOU'RE WRONG, WE ARE ALL A PART OF NATURE…

…EVEN YOU, COUGAR!

AND IF WE HURT HER, WE ARE ONLY HURTING OURSELVES!

THE EARTH IS LIKE OUR MOTHER, SHE PROVIDES FOR US!

YOU MEAN YOU WOULDN'T HURT ME, EVEN IF YOU COULD?

THEY ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A MEANS TO AN END – TO BE USED, CONSUMED, SOLD!

WHENNNN… DID YOU CATCH A WHIF OF COUGAR'S BREATH?

WOW, HE EVER HEAR OF MOUTH WASH?
PRETTY FAST, COUGAR. ALMOST AS FAST AS YOUR MOTHER!

MY MOTHER? YOU NEVER KNEW MY MOTHER.

YES, I KNEW HER, VERY WELL, BEFORE SHE WAS KILLED BY POACHERS.

POACHERS???

YES, SHE WAS KILLED JUST AFTER YOU WERE BORN, FOR HER FUR PELT ONLY.

MY MOTHER? YOU NEVER KNEW MY MOTHER!

POACHERS???

YES, SHE WAS KILLED JUST AFTER YOU WERE BORN, FOR HER FUR PELT ONLY.
They didn't care about how their selfish acts would affect the balance in the forest, and how it obviously affected you.

You have to do it with kindness and... thinking about the future.

Sob! Sob! How could anyone do that... to a cougar??!

Yes, cougar, it's true. The bush is an unforgiving place - but we survive it through kindness and respect.
WOW! WHAT A STORY! KIDS, COUGARS. I’M THINKING I MIGHT DO SOME SORT OF SLIDE PRESENTATION!

I CAN BEARLY WAIT! I LOVE STORIES OF BALANCE RETURNING TO NATURE!

YOU READY? WISH ME LUCK.

GOOD LUCK!

THIS TIME I’M DRIVING!

SPUTTER SPUTTER PUFF PUFF
SIX MONTHS LATER...

SHOW ANOTHER SLIDE!

IT WAS EMOTIONAL. FOR BOTH OF US.

THAT'S ME!

HOPEFULLY THOSE CHILDREN NOW UNDERSTAND SOME BASIC PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL LAW - PRINCIPLES THAT THEY CAN USE IN THEIR DAILY LIVES!

THE END!
Also Available from BearPaw

BREACH

A comic book produced by BearPaw Education, Breach is a lighthearted look at a serious topic—breach charges and administration of justice. Breach follows the misadventures of Sherman Buffalo, a troubled but well-meaning Aboriginal teen. Charged with a minor offence, Sherman would under normal circumstances face little more than community service, but as a result of his ignorance of the consequences of breaching court orders, he faces the possibility of a jail sentence. This youth-oriented resource aims to reinforce not only the importance of following court orders, but also honouring your word.