**Codetalkers Recounting Signals of Survival**

By Cheryl L’Hirondelle

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Kayās Māna Kayās (A Long Time Ago)

Following the 1994 international Indigenous think tank at the Banff Centre for the Arts entitled Drumbeats to Drumbytes, the late Ahasiw Maskgon-Iskwew noted: “To govern ourselves means to govern our stories and our ways of telling stories. It means that the rhythm of the drumbeat, the language of smoke signals and our moccasin telegraph can be transformed to the airwaves and moderns of our times. We can determine our use of the new technologies to support, strengthen and enrich our cultural communities.”1

As a participant and contributor during that event, I would add that to be truly free and self-governing, we must also acknowledge and be aware of our pre-contact ingenuity as inventors and technologists - experts in new media and avatars of innovation…

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