

# This month's čičyε circle teaching

“It’s not so much going out and buying stuff – what’s important is loving your children, just spending time with them. And remembering the Elders, too, at Christmas. I think we’ve become very materialistic. We didn’t have Christmas gifts galore when I was growing up. Of course our community was small then - you could walk door to door to door and say Merry Christmas! Sit down and have a cup of tea or coffee, or a bowl of soup. That’s what we did. It was more connection to the people around you, a more personal kind of contact. You could be gone all day visiting through the community.

I explain to the children the value of money, when I give it to them. My Granny always talked about money: don’t spend it all to the last penny. Always keep a little bit. You have to respect and appreciate money, because you need it. That was her teaching. With Christmas coming this is important. To be pit qʷayεgən is to be humble, not showing off. I have bigger gifts than you: kids pick up on that. Not everybody can afford that. You teach your children at a very young age to be pit qʷayεgən. We grew up without all that stuff.

We can all do that – think of the ones that need it most at Christmas time. It’s so needed, that good will, and sharing. That’s important.

Be safe through the holidays. Love to all!”

– Elsie Paul, čičyε Circle member

