



“His words are like wild flowers — ideas and beauty growing in places where people said it could never happen. Chief Laforme has turned dirt into heart; fertile, affecting, alive.”

— Ron MacLean,
Hockey Broadcaster

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BENEATH THE SURFACE

POEMS AND THEIR STORIES

BY CHIEF R. STACEY LAFORME

Beneath the Surface serves as both a deeply personal reflection and a call for greater understanding and connection, illuminating the complexities of life through the lens of Indigenous wisdom and storytelling. This collection goes beyond poetry, providing rich backstories and leadership insights that contextualize the verses. As in his earlier collections, *Living in the Tall Grass* and *Love, Life, Loss and a little bit of hope* Laforme once again extends an invitation to readers, encouraging them to see the world through Indigenous eyes. Themes of peace, humanity, grief, and trauma are woven throughout the book, creating a tapestry of reflection, healing, and ultimately, hope.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chief R. Stacey Laforme is a distinguished poet and storyteller from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Recently retired as elected Chief, he continues to inspire as a speaker and cultural leader. His poetry gives

voice to reconciliation, resilience, and

Indigenous identity, blending lived experience with ancestral wisdom. Chief Laforme has shared his work across Canada and internationally, including leading a historic delegation to the UK in 2023, where he became the first Anishinaabe Chief to meet the British Monarch in over 160 years. He is an Honourary Senior Fellow at Massey College, recognized for his lifelong contributions to Indigenous culture.

