

Nora Green is Upper Mohawk and Bear clan.

Nora was a high school drop out for approximately 20 years when she decided to return to school and get her grade 12. She went back to Waterford District High School and took an Adult Business Course. In one short year and with the granting of some mature credits, she earned her grade 12 diploma.

Nora's post secondary education began with a 3 year Business Administration program at Mohawk College, Fennell Campus in Hamilton. During these 3 years Nora worked part-time at Six Nations Special Services for Special People (now called Community Living). After graduating college, she went straight into a full-time job as the finance officer at Special Services.

When Nora was in her last year at Mohawk College, the graduating students in the 3 year Business Administration Program were presented with the opportunity to enrol in a degree completion program being offered in collaboration with the University of British Columbia and Mohawk College.

She did eventually earn a degree in Business Administration through a lot of distant education courses with this University.

Just before finishing the degree completion program Nora switched careers and got a job as Executive Administrator at Six Nations Social Services. Her education seemed to advance her career and now she is contemplating the next phase of her education.

Nora feels her biggest accomplishment is the **survival** of raising five children and **being** a Mother and Grandmother which she believes is her true calling in life.

The next major accomplishment for Nora was getting her education and having a career. Both her and her husband had only a grade 10 education when they started to raise a family. When the kids were at home, **she never imagined** that she would actually earn a degree. Going back to school was always in the back of her mind. After the fifth child was well established in a school routine, that dream became a reality.

One of the major challenges Nora faced was being an adult, a parent and grandparent when she was in school. It was extremely difficult **balancing time between family and studies**.

As a maturing female student, Nora also had to find ways to cope with health stresses brought on by menopause. In her last year at Mohawk College these health stresses challenged her ability to focus and shook her confidence in her recall of information.

This period of her life was quite the nightmare. She had visions of going into an exam and not being able to recall anything that she had "over studied" for. She did everything she could to help herself remember and did not stop short of standing on her head while taking a break from studying - something to do with the blood flow. (She thinks she read that somewhere, but can't remember now.)

She thought going to school full-time and working part-time was busy enough but things seemed to get worse before it got better. She finished Mohawk College and received a diploma in Business Administration with a major in accounting, got a full-time job and worked towards her

degree in Business Administration. Now she had to **balance a full-time job, a degree completion program and a family** that continued to grow with more grandchildren while still coping with health issues from menopause!!!!

Nora persevered. Now that she has a degree and her sensibility back she is actually contemplating signing up for more courses, either for her Masters or to **expand her knowledge** in the field of work that she is in. Sounds crazy but she knows "**there is always an end to look forward to.**"

Onkwehon:we values and principles that guided Nora throughout her education and career were honesty and hard work. Nora came from a large family with honest, hard working parents and is thankful for the principles and values that were instilled in her. "When you come from a large family and live on a farm there is **never a shortage of work.**" She really enjoys working and having a career.

Nora plans to continue to work in her community for as long as she can. She is **living proof** of what a **formal education and ambition** can do for a person. She encourages both young and mature students to **continue with their education**. The philosophy at Mohawk College is "**life-long learning**" and this is what she intends to do.

Nora's advice to young people is to "**Stay in school. Get your education while you have your youth** (and a sharp memory to go with it.)" **Education opens** so many **doors and opportunities**, it is unbelievable. On the therapeutic side, education is a

huge **boost to self-esteem** and **raises your level of confidence**; the **confidence in knowing** that you have the skills to do your job and do it to the best of your abilities.

Nora advises to **be persistent and stick with the plan**. It will pay off in the end. Also because of the level of stress from exams and paper deadlines, a **good support system** is a must. If you can "download" (talk) to your family/friends, it can mean the difference between hanging in there and giving up. Don't ever be afraid to **ask for any kind of help**. Your sanity could depend on it.

Nora would like to extend her thanks and gratitude to Post Secondary for their part in sponsoring her education. Each of the four Counsellors that she had throughout her post secondary education did an excellent job at providing her with answers to any questions that she had and they also gave a tremendous amount of moral support, probably without ever realizing it. She always appreciated their words of encouragement; it meant a lot to her. "I would like to say many many **nia:wens** for hanging in there and not giving up on me" and for this she will be forever grateful.