

49TH ANNUAL

ELDERS & TRADITIONAL PEOPLES GATHERING ECHOING OUR ANCESTORS

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Keri Takao

My name is Keri Tākao a tāne Māori (Māori man) from Aotearoa (New Zealand), with ancestral ties to Ngāti Rārua, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Toa, and Ngāi Tūhoe. I live on my mother's native lands in Motueka, where I have the privilege of caring for my 97-year-old father. When not in my caregiving role, I teach Te Reo Māori (the Māori language) and the cultural contexts of Te Ao Māori (the Māori world) to adult learners for a local polytechnic — a community-focused institution similar in spirit to George Brown College, but on a smaller scale.