

# Spaal'

## A Raven with different wings

Story by XWALUPUTHUT Patrick Aleck and Dr. Rheanna Robinson

Illustrations by Sean Robinson

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Spaarl: A Raven with Different Wings

Written by (XWALUPUTHUT) Patrick Aleck and Rheanna Robinson.

Illustrations by Sean Robinson.

Layout and design by Michelle Roberge.

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### **(XWALUPUTHUT) Patrick Aleck**

Patrick embodies a spirit of resilience. Living with cerebral palsy, Patrick learned how to walk when he was around eight years old and since 2011, he has been on an ongoing intergenerational healing journey. In 2012, Patrick reconnected with his culture, and he regularly drums, publicly speaks about his story, and began composing music in 2015. Patrick is a Raven with different wings and his unique experiences continue to carry him forward in important and meaningful ways.



### **Rheanna Robinson**

Dr. Rheanna Robinson is an Indigenous scholar and a member of the Manitoba Métis Federation. Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1997, Rheanna has lived with an evolving lens of MS-related disease and disability for almost 30 years and Indigenous Disability Studies has become a primary focus of her work. She was pleased to collaborate with Patrick to write the story of Spaal'.



### **Sean Robinson**

Sean Robinson is a student at the University of Northern British Columbia. In his free time, he enjoys writing, fishing, and reading.

## **GUIDING QUESTIONS**

*This book was created as part of the Hearts-based Education and Anti-colonial Learning H.E.A.L. Healthcare project ([www.healhealthcare.ca](http://www.healhealthcare.ca)). The goal of H.E.A.L. Healthcare is to use the arts to address oppressive behaviours and attitudes that we all hold and that permeate healthcare systems and culture. The story of Spaal' represents resiliency in the face of adversity and personal challenges. Please consider and respond to these questions after reading this story.*

**After reading the story, write a short poem about overcoming challenges.**

**How does the story of Spaal' encourage us to always believe in ourselves?**



**Spaal' looks sad  
and feels alone  
in his Village**

**because all the Ravens  
can see he has different  
wings and can barely fly.**

**"Why do  
you look so  
sad?" asks  
Raven Val.**



**Spaal' replies,  
"My wings... they  
are different. They  
aren't the same  
as yours or the  
other ravens."**

**"And the other Ravens make  
me feel bad because I don't  
fly the same" said Spaal'.**



**Raven Val says, "We are going to teach you how to fly!"**



**Raven Val makes Spaal' fly from tree to tree and pushes him to keep flying because she believes in him!**

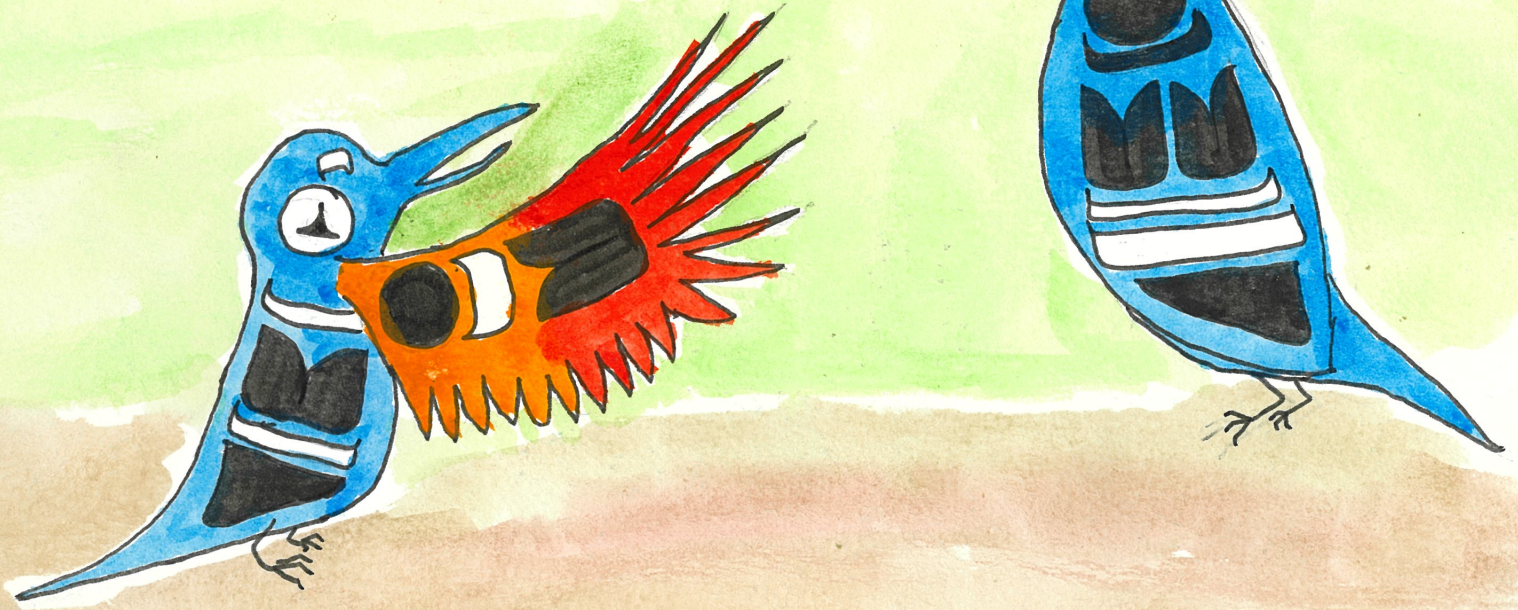


**"Your wings are so special,  
Spaal'. We are going to  
practice every day until you  
can fly with your different  
wings" Raven Val says.**



**One day Spaal' tells Raven Val,  
"I am moving to a different Village  
so this is where our practice ends!"**

**Spaal' is very sad again.**





**Raven Gary tells Spaal',  
"I will help you  
continue to fly!"**

**Raven Gary practices  
flying with Spaal' and  
teaches him how to exercise  
his wings daily. Spaal'  
starts to believe in himself  
and be confident about  
his different wings.**

**But even when Spaal'  
is flying better, other  
Ravens fly by him and push  
him away and laugh!**



**Spaal' stops to  
visit the Elder  
Ravens.**

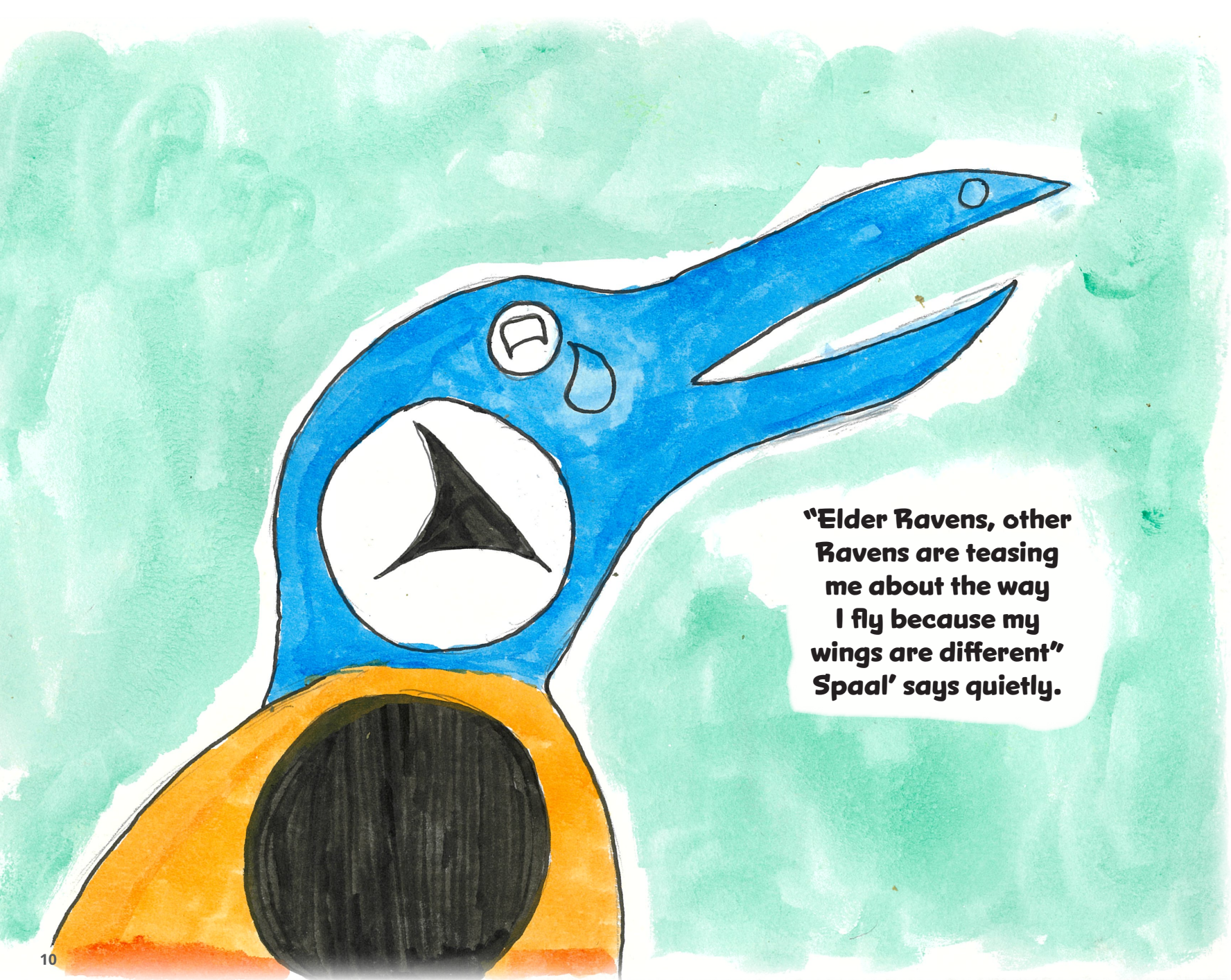


**"Hello Spaal!"  
the Elder Ravens  
cheerfully say.**



**"It is so nice to  
see you today!"**





**"Elder Ravens, other Ravens are teasing me about the way I fly because my wings are different" Spaal' says quietly.**

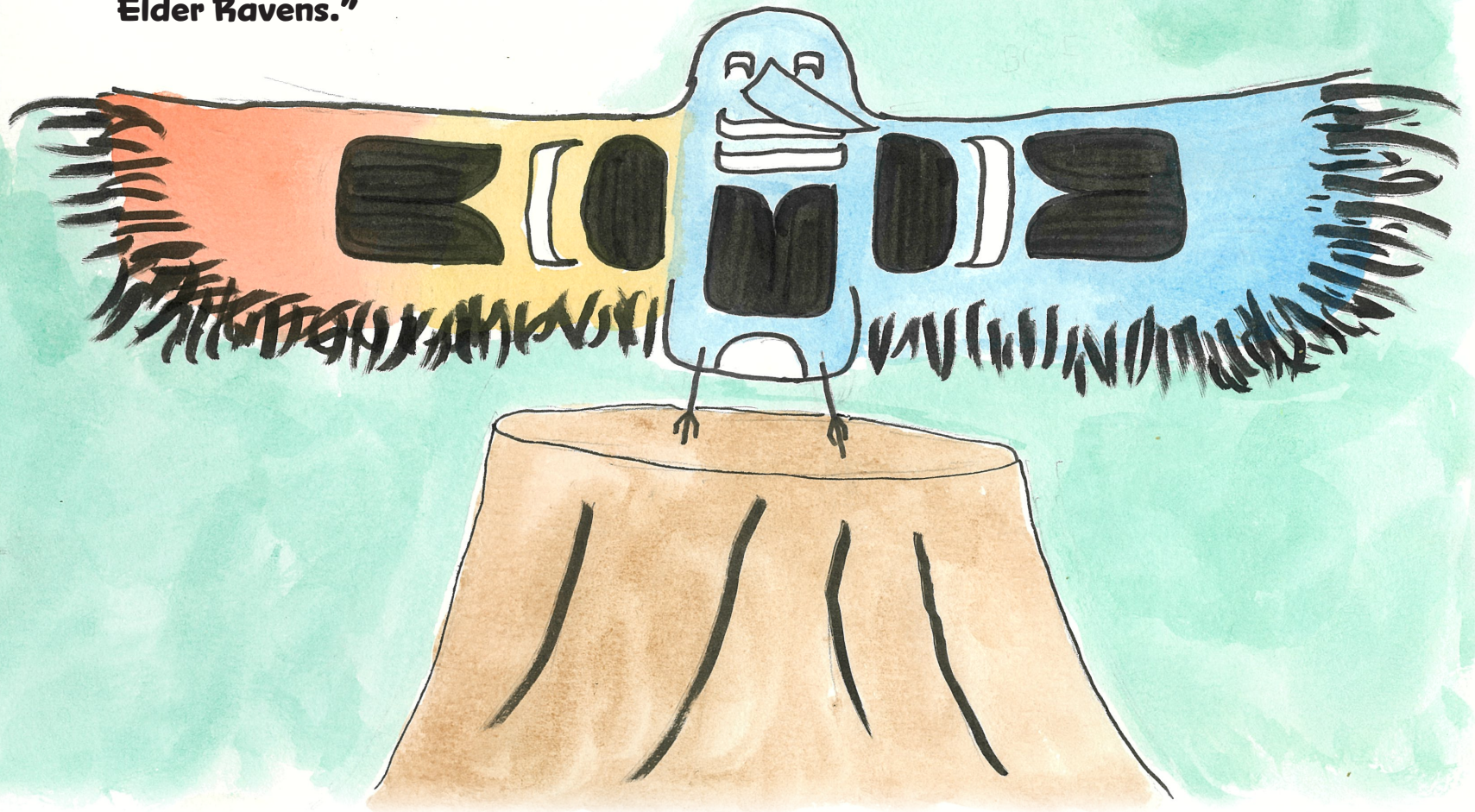
**"Oh, Spaal!" reply the Elder Ravens,  
"your wings are important and you  
have been gifted them for a reason!"**



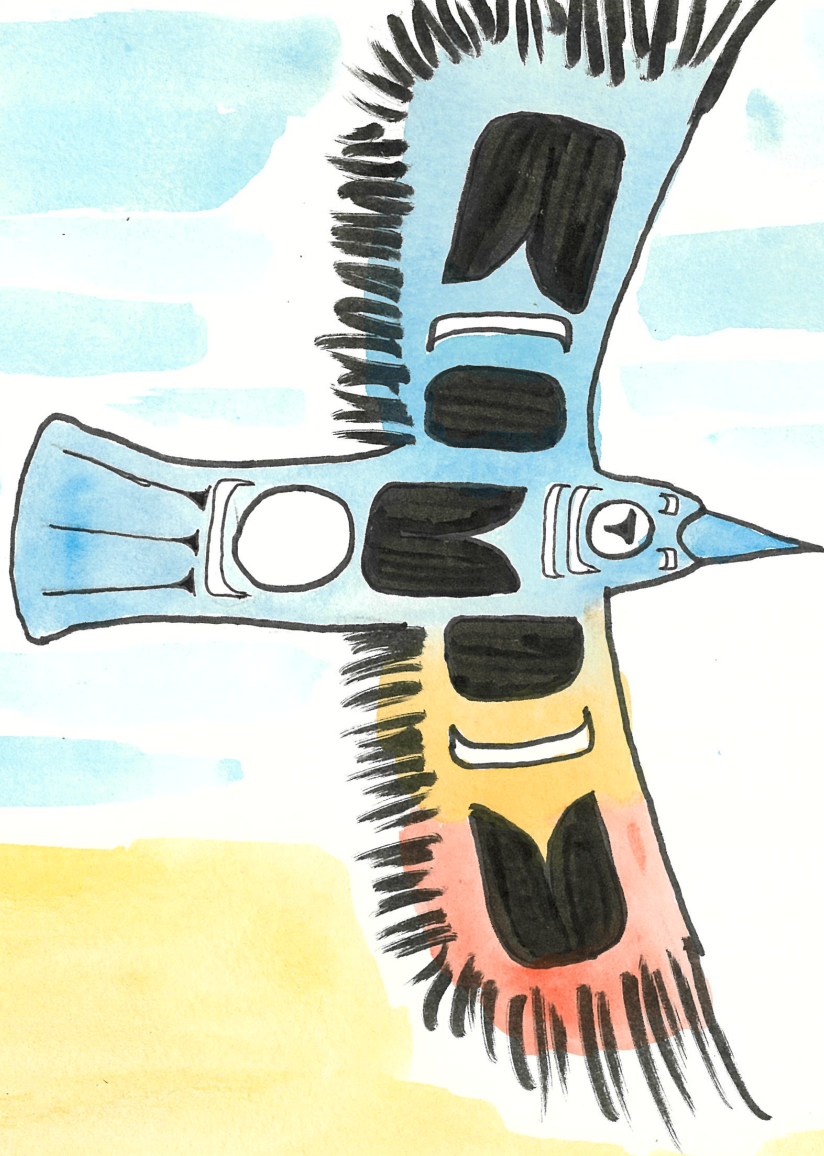
**The Elder Ravens  
continue to tell  
Spaal',  
"One day you're  
going to help  
future little  
Ravens and  
help them fly  
and be a voice  
for the Raven  
community!"**



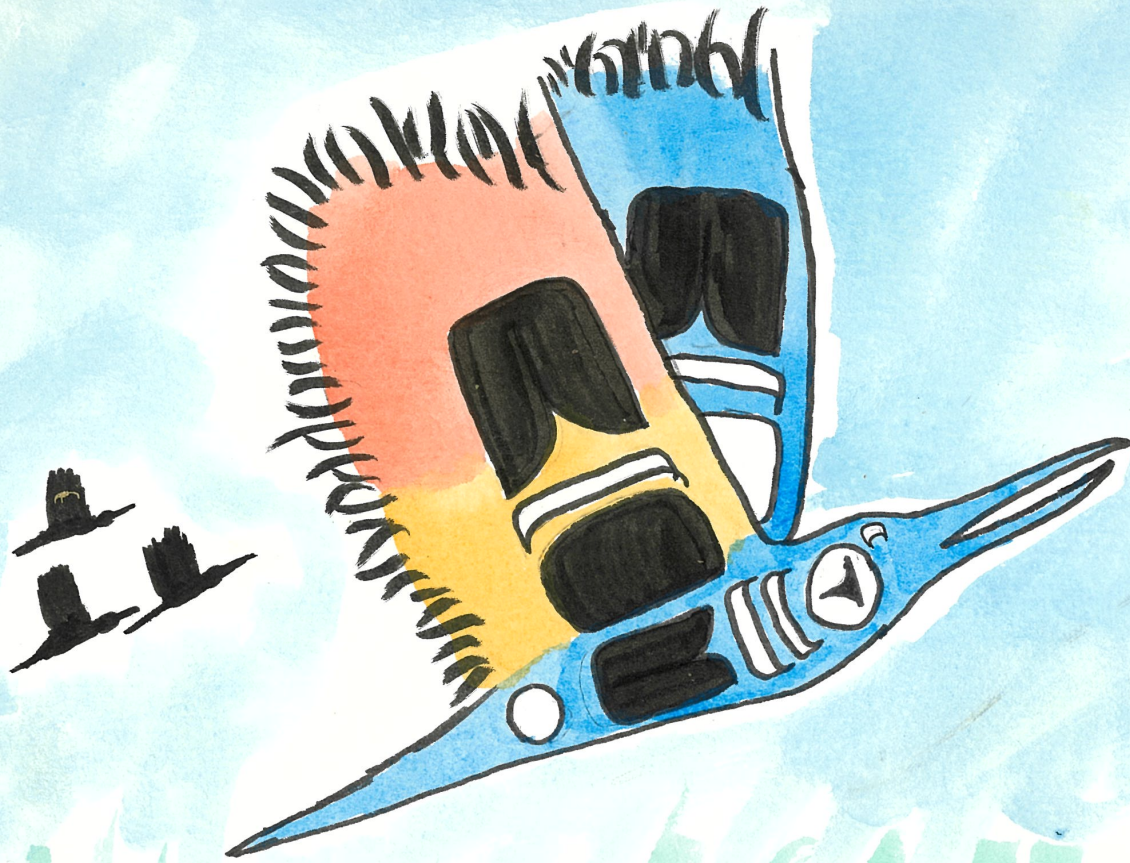
**"HMMM..." Spaal'  
says, "Thank you,  
Elder Ravens."**







**For many years, Spaal' continues to fly to his favorite spots by the ocean. He thinks about how Raven Val and Raven Gary pushed him to believe in himself and show him how resilient he is. Spaal' is very grateful to Raven Val and Raven Gary.**



**Spaal' knows the Elder Ravens were right. A Raven with different wings helps others fly and Spaal' is a voice for his community!**

**Go to [HEALhealthcare.ca](http://HEALhealthcare.ca) to learn more about *Spaal'*  
and to find other books and learning activities.**

**LOVE THIS BOOK?**

**For all people in healthcare who want to learn more, go to [HEALhealthcare.ca](http://HEALhealthcare.ca)**



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