

## I am a Claim

Stretching Forth Her Hands across Continental Coastlines  
Like a Maverick Reporter Conducting Timely Interviews  
to be Printed in Provincial Freedom Papers  
across Chronologies and Cultural Spectrums.

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Like a **Crimson** Tide I Ride Up and Over the 49<sup>th</sup> Parallel  
Shedding Flesh like **Orange** Peels on the Deck of the Commodore.

I Will not Settle for less than these

**Amber** Valleys and **Green** Maple Leafs.

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I Ride the Rails like ‘George’  
from the Maritimes of DaCosta  
to the **Blues** of Terminal City  
Layering Down Tracks.

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I Run the Mighty Seawall  
Shortcutting through Linton Garner Lane to  
Joe Forte’s Beach  
and like a Rosemary Brown Speech  
Dark Skin Smiles  
on Pale Faces of Adversity  
Playing in the Park with Emery  
or Sleeping with the Brotherhood  
at Vanrock Nocturne.

January 31, 2012

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Vancouver

Dreaming of a Land Promised to be my Own  
after Overseeing Fields of Tobacco, Cotton, **Indigo**...

Like the Time I Took to Smell the Fleur-de-Lis,  
Poppies, **Roses**, Tulips and **Violets** -  
Scents that Travel me to Childhood,  
Snuggled on Mother’s Continent.

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I have these Hands  
with **Brown** Rivers  
Scripted in Identified Flesh  
where North & South Roads Mesh with the Great Seaway  
and Empty out into the Bay.  
I would not Trade them for the Skins of other Lived Things  
and I will use them to Hold my Own  
on this Native Land:  
Kept and Broken  
Written and Spoken  
Drummed and Danced.

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I am Whirling Furor of Black Cowboy’s Lasso,  
the Stampede after the Rush,  
the Fly in the Pail of Milk,  
the Conductor of Symphonies  
Wearing Authentic **Gold** Medals  
and Keeping it Real like McCoy.

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January 31, 2012

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Vancouver

I am Dropped Gloves off High-Scoring Hands,

Split Fingers from the Mound

Boxing Jabs and Feather Pens,

Dubbing Powerful WordSound.

Ceremonial Swords of Pioneers,

Loaded African Rifles.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am Clenched Fists of Short Sprints,

the Mad Dashes of Hyphenated Titles:

AFRI, AFRO, CARIBBEAN & MORE

a Free African on Canadian Shores

of the Great Black North

Proud

I am.

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