

Eugène on his childhood & cultural background

Well I was raised in the Memramcook area, more specifically in Beaumont New Brunswick and that's in the woods. And there's a church that was built by the Mi'kmaq in 1884 and today it's still there as a touristic site, heritage site. And my parents were poor, they didn't have—they were illiterate. They worked hard, worked in the forest and also worked on the sea. My mother just had a grad four. We were a family of six children, I'm the youngest. We were French, influenced by the English because of English assimilation. We were six children. For my parents, religion and the church and the doctor were very important. There was a lot of physical ailments, you would go to the doctor because he has—I felt our family went to much to the doctor. So anyway, I think that I was the one that was always, growing up, I was always critical of [the] system and wondering, asking all kinds of questions. So, it's from that perspective that I come to [be] involved in mental health. I asked my mother how did she know that god was Catholic. I don't know, I don't remember, probably because he has to be, probably. And as a child I always—I had three dreams when I was young. One was to travel, do a magazine and help people out. And I said to myself: "I'll never be able to do that, because I have to go to university and I'm too depressed to do that." And fast-forward many years after, I see myself doing all those three things, without having bypassed the formal model of education.