

<sup>6</sup>This quote refers to section 12(1)(b) of the *Indian Act*, which, previous to 1985, decreed that status Indian women automatically lost that status upon marriage to a non-Indian male, and must move from the reserve, and may not return, even if widowed or divorced. Furthermore, her children and all of their subsequent progeny lost the right to claim Indian status in perpetuity.

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## PATRICIA MONTURE

### On Writing #1

I suspect I ain't no poet  
but I write  
in scraps of thoughts  
on scraps of paper  
when I hurt more than I can carry.

I ain't no poet  
but these words sure look organized  
when I centre then so carefully on my  
computer's screen.  
The letters dance as I type  
in straight lines, single step, across the page  
they dance: pain into reality  
because I can now see it on the computer screen.

Press PRINT...

*Patricia Monture's poetry appears earlier in this volume.*