

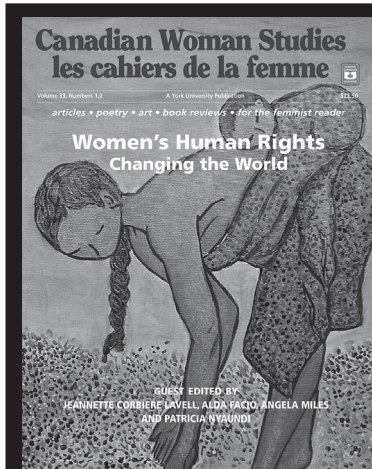
## JACQUI SPENCER

### This is my grounding...

Honour the earth in which you lay  
The sand beneath your feet  
**This is my grounding**  
My location is the hills of a country  
Descendant of warrior women  
Redemption songs  
And reggae beats  
**This is my grounding**  
Stories told of fight and flight  
Shame of skin but pride  
Shades so deep, dark and voluminous  
Beauty of Maroon  
These are my people  
**This is my grounding**  
I connect  
Beginning  
Middle  
The sun unending  
**This is my grounding**  
A language that floats outside yet dances within  
Where coc'nut falls  
And mangoes speak  
The lushness of land  
Lay buried deep  
**This is my grounding**  
Where water speaks so clear  
So true  
For lost souls  
Whose spirits whisper freedom from shores  
With blood shed

Reclaimed  
And shackled no more  
**This is my grounding**  
Cane so sweet  
Yet bitter fruit  
Lost on tongues that no longer speak  
**This is my grounding**  
Loss internal  
With gains eternal  
Listen  
As children cry for mothers  
Whose souls bleed across oceans  
Where shadows speak  
Out of many one people  
**This is my grounding**  
My land  
My love  
My roots  
This  
Is  
My  
Grounding

*Jacqui Spencer is an advocate for the betterment of the lives of the marginalized. A mother, and Social Justice Education doctoral student at OISE/University of Toronto, her focus is empowering Black women through her work and lived experiences.*



## CANADIAN WOMAN STUDIES/ LES CAHIERS DE LA FEMME

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF FEMINIST PUBLISHING

*Indispensable resources for the feminist reader.*

[www.cwscf.ca](http://www.cwscf.ca)

*Forthcoming Fall 2018:  
Women's Human Rights: Changing the World*