main salient to some women's return to education. As with many aspects of our gendered lives, we need to be aware of resistance to our access to education, of our own participation in our continued subordination through our willingness to transform this subordination into the more acceptable notion that it is our "choice" to live our lives in ways that have traditionally been dictated by society. Solutions for change need to be explored with these crucial aspects in mind.

Norma Husk is herself a "returning student," who, while continuing her work as a registered nurse and mother of two young children, completed her BA with Honours in Sociology at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Quebec. She is currently continuing her studies at the PhD level at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec.

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### **RENEE NORMAN**

## Handshake

i am a poet i use words to paint metaphors let others build roads and bridges mend fences unveil plans and programs

i am a teacher we sing about spring the cuckoo's call and fly musical kites over piano keys and the clatter of a workman repairing a broken window

i am a mother in between the sandwiches i write at the kitchen table remember the feet i covered up last night sticking out of blankets the gap where a tooth used to be a hand covered with an allergic rash slips its roughness into mine

Renee Norman is a doctoral student at the University of British Columbia, a part-time teacher, a writer, and a poet. She has had poetry published in Contemporary Verse 2, Prairie Fire, Women's Education des Femmes, Room of One's Own, and Dandelion.

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