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Rachelle Bergen:

Rachelle Bergen has worked in special education and Deaf education for three nearly decades. That work has taken her to school boards across Canada and as far away as New Zealand where she studied and trained in their bicultural teaching approach (Māori and non- Māori). She is currently teaching Deaf and hard of hearing high school students with the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (district 25).

She has authored two children's books about Abby Hoffman and Elsie MacGill; incredible but unknown Canadian women and has been awarded the OSSTF, Dr. S.G.B. Robinson Travelling Grant for educational research in travel and ETFO's Women's Writing award for her children's storybook; Abby Hoffman – Attempting the Absurd.

In 2016, she spearheaded federal legislation (Bill C-309), the Act to establish Gender Equality Week. On June 21, 2018, Rachelle sat in the Senate as the bill received royal assent and became federal law.

Rachelle is completing her Master of Education thesis at Trent University which focuses on reconciliatory education, pedagogy and methodologies and how the Western education system in general and special education specifically, would greatly benefit from a deeper understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing and learning.

Her most influential teachers have always been her two marvelous sons.

