

Indigenous Peoples of Canada

History - The Letter, continued

Michaela Washburn's letter continues:

It was just Grandma's birthday a few days ago, and it's coming up on the anniversary of when my mom crossed over into the spirit world. And I find at times like these I crave to know my roots, and that in so many ways you're one of my strongest links.

I remember that conversation we had on the phone years ago, around the time of Noelle's wedding when I asked you about our background and you said, "We've got no language and no land. What's the point." And I guess, more and more, the point is, Grandpa, that I need to know how to honour my ancestors. I am blood from your blood and flesh from your flesh, and if there's one thing I learned growing up it was to stand proud, have integrity, and treat people with respect. I learned that from you, watching the way you were with people at pilgrimage, and how hard you always worked. You taught us so much about work ethic and dignity in the way you ran the concession, and in the fact that we charged a reasonable price for good food, and that we kept things clean, and never tried to rip anybody off. I learned a lot about how to treat people, and that we are honourable because it is the right thing to do. Life isn't always about profit.