

Indigenous Peoples of Canada

Hard Truths - Video 3

Michaela Washburn's letter, continued:

I think the biggest thing is, Grandpa, that I need you to know more, that I love you dearly, and I wish I had learned so much more from you. Things about fishing; how to mend nets; and maybe even how to play a good hand of poker. Things that I feel would link me to you for all time. I can't imagine what it must have been like for you when you were raising your kids, and the government was so awful to Aboriginal people. I've learned a lot about what Métis people went through. I read about the fur traders, our ancestors, and I believe that like many other mixed-blooded people, choosing to deny the Cree in our blood seemed like the best way to ensure survival and a decent future for your family. I also believe that the time to reclaim ourselves is upon us; to stand full and proud in the truth of how God made us, and that the time to deny it or be ashamed shall be no more.