

## **Indigenous Peoples of Canada**

### **History - A Personal Experience**

Gail Maurice:

It's interesting because most people that I meet - you know, everybody wants others to be like them, right. So they don't necessarily think that I'm Aboriginal right away, especially if they're not from this country. Cause they're not exposed and, you know, they probably come in here with preconceived ideas, if they have any, about indigenous culture in Canada. You know, most of the people that I've met don't really have much knowledge about Aboriginal people. Especially with the Métis, you know, it's like I was telling my friend who migrated here from Sri Lanka, and he goes - I told him I was Métis - and he goes, "What's that?" Like most people don't know what Métis is. If I just say I'm Métis then they don't know it. So that's why I also put Cree-Métis. At least hopefully they'll know what Cree is, if they don't think I'm Greek! But he thought Indians were like these annihilators, right? Cause from what he watched, the cowboy and Indian shows in Sri Lanka - so he was surprised that, you know, we exist. And so it's just a lot of explaining. I have to do a lot of explaining for a lot of people that just are not exposed. You know, because it's - there is no education; like the education system doesn't speak or talk about Aboriginal issues. I think now it's being - residential schools, and that legacy and, you know, what the history of it is now being introduced in the curriculum, but before that - nothing.