

# Historical Trauma: From an Indigenous Perspective

Session 5

*November 27, 2018*

# History continued...

1996-----There are now 200,000 bison in North America

1997-----Judge Reilly delayed sentencing and ordered an investigation into "social conditions, political corruption and financial mismanagement" on a reserves

2001-----the federal Office of Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada was created to manage and resolve the large number of abuse claims filed by former students against the federal government.

2004-----Assembly of First Nations Report on Canada's Dispute Resolution Plan to Compensate for Abuses in Indian Residential Schools led to discussions to develop a holistic, fair and lasting resolution of the legacy of Indian Residential Schools.

2005-----Canadian federal government announced the IRSSA compensation package. It represents the largest class-action lawsuit in Canadian history.

# Indian Residential Settlement Agreement

With the support of the Assembly of First Nations and Inuit organizations, former residential school students took the federal government and the churches to court. Their cases led to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the largest class-action settlement in Canadian history. The agreement sought to begin repairing the harm caused by residential schools. Aside from providing compensation to former students, the agreement called for the establishment of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada with a budget of \$60-million over five years.

The TRC is a component of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. Its mandate is to inform all **Canadians** about what happened in Indian Residential Schools (IRS). The **Commission** will document the **truth** of survivors, families, communities and anyone personally affected by the IRS experience.

2008-----Canada's apology for the Residential schools.

# MMIWG and LGBTQ2S

2015-----The Government of Canada announced the launch of an independent national inquiry to address the high number of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, including two-spirited, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and queer.

2017-----Our women, girls, and LGBTQ2S are sacred. We would like to recognize every single family member and loved one of the missing or murdered Indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ2S people in Canada. We want to express our deepest sympathies for your loss and we are grateful for every story that you will choose to share with us in the search for the truth. Over the last several months we have been determining our strategy for how best to move forward in this National Inquiry. Our mission is to learn the truth by honouring the lives and legacies of Indigenous women, girls and members of the LGBTQ2S community.

This encompasses three goals:

- 1) Finding the truth
- 2) Honouring the truth
- 3) Giving life to the truth as a path to healing

2017 -----There are now an estimated 500,000 head of bison in North America

2017-----Racism is starting to peak with the election of latest president of the USA.

While xenophobia — or fear of those unlike ourselves — has long been a part of human cultures, the concept of race first appeared in the English language around the 17th century. North Americans began to use the term in their scientific writings by the late 18th century. Racism began to be studied by scientists in the 19th century. At the time the ideology explained some political and economic conflicts in parts of the world, and legitimized the dominant role of British capitalism in the world economic system.

- Racism is an ideology that either directly or indirectly asserts that one group is inherently superior to others. It can be openly displayed in racial jokes and slurs or hate crimes but it can be more deeply rooted in attitudes, values and stereotypical beliefs. In some cases, these are unconsciously held and have become deeply embedded in systems and institutions that have evolved over time. Racism operates at a number of levels, in particular, individual, systemic and societal.
- Despite the fact that Canada has made much progress, unfortunately racism and racial discrimination remain a persistent reality in Canadian society. This fact must be acknowledged as a starting point to effectively address racism and racial discrimination.

2018 ----- Court cases Bushie and Fontaine

2018 ----- 5 billion allocated to Reconciliation

2018 ----- 1.5 Billion allocated to Child Services

# History continued...

## **White Privilege**

(or white skin privilege) is a term for societal privileges that benefit white people in Western countries beyond what is commonly experienced by non-white people under the same social, political, or economic circumstances. According to McIntosh and Lee, whites in a society considered culturally a part of the Western World enjoy advantages that non-whites do not experience.

# History continued...

## White Privilege

- White privilege doesn't mean that you are born into money, that's *class privilege*.
- White privilege means that you are born into the racial 'norm', another kind of privilege. A privilege where you can;
- Turn on the television or open to the front page of the paper and see people of your race widely represented.
- If you wish, you can arrange to be in the company of people of your race most of the time.
- If you buy “flesh” coloured items like band-aids or stockings, they will more or less match your skin tone.
- If you were able to use the *original* suite of emoji's, the 'thumbs up' or 'peace sign' hand gestures represented your race.
- You can easily find picture books, greeting cards, dolls, toys and magazines featuring people of your race.
- Every disagreement doesn't have to be a life or death issue.
- Being born white means that you were born into a system that validates and reaffirms that you are socially included - and being socially included, is a very valuable privilege.
- And lastly, unlike class, a person cannot hide their race.

# History continued...

- There are many different types of privilege, not just skin color privilege, that impact the way people can move through the world or are discriminated against. These are all things you are born into, not things you earned, that afford you opportunities others may not have. For example:
- **Citizenship** - Simply being born in this country affords you certain privileges non-citizens will never access.
- **Class** - Being born into a [financially stable](#) family can help guarantee your health, happiness, safety, education, intelligence, and future opportunities.
- **Sexual Orientation** - By being born straight, every state in this country affords you privileges that non-straight folks have to fight the Supreme Court for.
- **Sex** - By being born male, you can assume that you can walk through a parking garage without worrying you'll be raped and that a defense attorney will then blame it on what you were wearing.
- **Ability** - By being born able bodied, you probably don't have to plan your life around handicap access, braille, or other special needs.
- **Gender** - By being born [cisgendered](#), you aren't worried that the restroom or locker room you use will invoke public outrage.

## Some suggestions as to how to address our current state

- Educate everybody in Canada and abroad about this legacy
- Have procedures in place to accommodate the fallout of this reality. Meaning there is going to be a surge in people seeking their own Identities and Spirituality in the process of healing
- Language revitalization, research, preservation and promotion need to be in place.
- Virtual Games involved with retaining, preserving, promoting and continuing culture need to be developed
- Rewrite the history of Canada that includes the Indigenous input and experience.
- Become comfortable talking about awkward issues such as racism, white privilege, religion, politics...etc.

Questions?