



**Truth and
Reconciliation**
Commission of Canada

trc.ca

For the child taken,
For the parent left behind.

CIAJ Conference
Toronto, Ontario
October 11, 2013



Truth vs Proof



For the child taken,
For the parent left behind.

Indian Residential Schools



To Kill the Indian in the Child



Abusive Conditions



Deaths



Settlement Agreement

Five Components:

1. **Common Experience Payment**
2. **Individual Assessment Process**
3. **Aboriginal Healing Foundation Fund**
4. **Commemoration Initiatives**
5. **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**

Schedule N of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

Prohibited from:

- 1) Holding “formal” hearings
- 2) Acting like a Public Inquiry
- 3) Conducting a “formal legal process”
- 4) Compelling attendance
- 5) Making findings of misconduct, civil or criminal liability

Principles

- **Accessibility**
- **Victim-Centred**
- **Do No Harm**
- **Health and Safety of Participants**
- **Open and Honourable Process**
- **Inclusive**
- **Holistic**
- **Just and Fair**
- **Respectful**
- **Flexible**

Goals of the TRC

- **Acknowledge Residential School Experiences, impacts and consequences**
- **Provide a holistic, culturally appropriate and safe setting for former students, their families, and communities as they come forward to the Commission**

The Commission shall recognize:

- **The unique experiences of First Nation, Inuit and Metis former IRS students**
- **The significance of Aboriginal oral and legal traditions in its activities**
- **That all individual statements are of equal importance**

Truth Sharing

<http://vimeo.com/25783288>

<http://vimeo.com/47592159>

<http://vimeo.com/31923044>

<http://vimeo.com/50701589>

EVIDENCE?

A system of rules and standards that is used to determine proof

Drums

Eagle Feathers

Sacred Medicines

Witnessing

Family Narratives, Blankets

DO NO HARM

No Lawyers

No Examinations

No Cross Examinations

No Interruptions

You witnessed Truth Sharing from a Survivor who chose what to share at that moment.

WITNESSING

The important role of the witness is based on the Aboriginal principle of witnessing.

Witnesses are called upon to be the keepers of history when an event of historic significance occurs.

Having honoured and respected guests to witness Truth Sharing is the means by which such truths are validated and provided legitimacy.

I LOST MY TALK

**I lost my talk
The talk that you took away
When I was a little girl
At Shubenacadie school**

**You snatched it away
I speak like you
I think like you
I create like you
The scrambled ballad, about my world**

**Two ways I talk
Both ways I say
Your way is more powerful**

**So gently I offer my hand and ask
Let me find my talk
So I can teach you about me**

Rita Joe