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
TRC Mandate

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
Duties

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