

Why Is This Important

Why is this important... 600 plus years ago the people of my culture made up 100% of the population of this continent. Today we make up barely single digits percentage of the this continent, and almost make double digits in the entire hemisphere. That is only a period of about 600 years.

Why is this important... 500 years ago a squirrel could climb a tree on the east coast and it could not have to leave the canopy until it reached the Mississippi river. This entire eastern woodlands was a vast virgin hardwood forest. The city in which I now reside in is called the forest city and we in London do not live inside a forest by any stretch of the imagination, and this is only over the course of 500 years.

Why is this important... Just over 400 years ago the Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy formed the basis of law that was borrowed by first the Americans as they formed their Declaration of Independence... The "We the people" form of this declaration is the basis of the Great Law of the Haudensaane of a government by the people for the people... loosely now it is government by the politically elite, for the corporate elite... all this in only about 400 years.

Why is this important... Just over 300 years ago the waters of this continent were so clear and clean that if it wasn't for the abundant life in them you could see the bottom of any river or lake... the life was so abundant that one could walk across a river or stream on the backs of the fish and not

get wet, this was just over 300 years there is still abundant life in the waterways but they are bacterial and for the most part they are not fit to wash, swim, or play in let alone drink, talk to someone from Walkerton Ontario about water safety.

Why is this so important... 200 years ago or so the massacre at wounded knee the ending of the "Ghost Dancers", 378 women, children, and old men all unarmed where surprised, herded into a valley and shot to death by a brigade of the U.S. 7th Cavalry. If this was not dishonourable enough the government of the United States of America awarded to several soldiers the congressional Medal Of Honour, for the murdering of unarmed women, children and old men, forever tarnishing their highest medal awarded for bravery and courage under fire. This happened only 200 years ago.

Why is this so important... just 100 years ago the start of residential schools and the destruction of the family system of the Native American People. The governments of the day in the America's began to take the young and put them into boarding schools, these youngsters where beaten if they spoke their language, refuse to cut their hair, and or spoke to their brother or sisters. The mortality rate at these schools ran by the agents of the government, the Anglican and the Catholic churches was about 50 %, children as young as 4 years of age where taken and sentenced into these school (prisons). Physical abuse and death were the least of the abuses committed in the name of assimilation. The emotional, mental and sexual abuse imposed upon these children was much more damaging as these human beings where forced to live with this memory for the

rest of their lives. The last residential school closed in 1976 almost 100 years of family destruction. Almost 100 years of not raising your young, almost 100 years of not teaching the young how to be good persons, people, and parents, almost 100 years of not teaching the young to be responsible to their obligations, almost 100 years of the loss of innocence. All of this happened within the last 100 years.

Why is this so important.... in more recent years the second coming of Wounded Knee and the attempted dismantling of the American Indian Movement. Leonard Pettier, the plight of the Lubicon, Oka, Dudley George, the delay in action of the 911 phone call in Winnipeg, resulting in the deaths of 2 Native women, the taking and dropping outside the city limits of Native Men in freezing temperatures of a Saskatoon winter night(s) by the city police, these Native men forcibly stripped of their winter clothing and footwear, the B.C. logging issues, Burnt Church and the fishing rights issues of the east coast..... and several other issues that leads the Native Community to believe that there is no justice system, only a "just us" system. All this continues up to and including today.

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