



**IT'S OUR TIME**



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## **It's our time...**

*We are at a turning point in our history where we need to return to the real meaning of our nationhood and identities.*

*We must stand proud and together, strengthened in unity, for our traditions, our laws, our lands and our territories.*

*We must work together to ensure healthy families and communities; to achieve sustainable economies; and to return to living in balance with our environment.*

*This is our time to use education as our tool to retain and maintain the strength of First Nations languages, history, teachings and values while facilitating better understanding between First Nations and the rest of Canadian society.*

*This is our time to empower our fast growing youth population in ways that will ensure a future of opportunity, success and prosperity. The voices of our youth must be heard, understood and included.*

*Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo  
Grand Chief  
Assembly of First Nations*

## **Seeds**

Seeds come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes and colours but each has great potential. Seeds store energy. With a little care and nurturing each will develop roots and grow towards the sun.

insert seeds here

**Plant the seeds.  
Make your own discoveries.**



## The Circle

You have noticed that everything an Indian does in a circle, and that is because the Power of the World always works in circles, and everything and everything tries to be round.

In the old days all our power came to us from the sacred hoop of the nation and so long as the hoop was unbroken the people flourished. The towering tree was the living center of the hoop, and the circle of the four quarters nourished it. The east gave peace and light, the south gave warmth, the west gave rain and the north with its cold and mighty wind gave strength and endurance. This knowledge came to us from the outer world with our religion.

Everything the power of the world does is done in a circle. The sky is round and I have heard that the earth is round like a ball and so are all the stars. The wind, in its greatest power, whirls. Birds make their nests in circles, for theirs is the same religion as ours. The sun comes forth and goes down again in a circle. The moon does the same and both are round. Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing and always come back again to where they were.

The life of a man is a circle from childhood to childhood, and so it is in everything where power moves. Our teepees were round like the nests of birds, and these were always set in a circle, the nation's hoop, a nest of many nests, where the Great Spirit meant for us to hatch our children.

*Black Elk,  
Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux 1863-1950*

## Dare to Dream

Deep down, every child has a dream of what they can become.

Every dream is different.

Every dream is important.

Having a dream of a future where one belongs, where one is needed, where one is free to be... Isn't that what each of us wants?

We all need to dare to dream.

Think back. Did you have a dream?

Were you supported along the way?

And without that support...without that support...?

*Anonymous*



## Some Thoughts about Civilized Society

*Before our white brothers arrived to make us civilized men,  
we didn't have any kind of prison.*

*Because of this, we had no delinquents.*

*Without a prison, there can be no delinquents.*

*We had no locks nor keys and therefore among  
us there were no thieves.*

*When someone was so poor that he couldn't afford a  
horse, a tent or a blanket,  
he would, in that case, receive it all as a gift.*

*We were too uncivilized to give great importance  
to private property.*

*We didn't know any kind of money and consequently,  
the value of a human being  
was not determined by his wealth.*

*We had no written laws laid down, no lawyers,  
no politicians, therefore we were not able to  
cheat and swindle one another.*

*We were really in bad shape before the white men  
arrived and I don't know how to explain how we were able  
to manage without these fundamental things  
that (so they tell us) are so necessary for a civilized society.*

*John (Fire) Lame Deer  
Sioux Lakota - 1903-1976*

## The Elastic

STRETCH. GROW. LEARN.

insert elastic here

Our young people need to  
stretch to grow.

Sometimes they will have to  
leave the community.

They will have to pull away.

But the community is always  
drawing them back.

When they return,  
they return as leaders.



# Know Who You Are

*Know who you are*

*Learn who you are*

*Seek who you are*

*Understand who you are*

*Be proud of who you are*

You know how the Elders are always going on about “knowing who you are.” I used to think, I know what they’re talking about.

*I know who I am. They call me Crash.*

*I’m 22.*

*I’m the son of Foster, and the late Mary.*

*I have one sister.*

*I won a prize, once, for hockey.*

*I have plans for College.*

*I can sing, but not very well.*

*I like dogs better than cats.*

*I like summers better than winters.*

But, I’m beginning to understand that’s not what the Elders mean at all.

They mean wisdom not statistics. They mean understanding not descriptions. They mean knowing. Ways of Knowing means the many ways you’re smart—the many ways you have value—the many things you bring from your people to the world.

So how do we find out who we are? Do we go to experts and ask them to test and tell us who we are? Of course not. A better way involves looking at our abilities, gifts or talents. Each of these abilities is a different kind of knowledge, a different way of knowing.

# Mentorship

The Dictionary defines a mentor as a trusted counselor or guide: a wise, loyal advisor or coach.

Mentorship refers to a personal relationship in which a more experienced or more knowledgeable person helps a less experienced or less knowledgeable person.

A mentor acts as a friend rather than an authority figure— an advocate, an educator, a personal advisor, a role model, and an agent for the development of positive self-esteem.

Encourage adults and community stakeholders to become proactive about mentorship.

What if every school had a mentorship program? What if every employer would mentor someone? What if every coach in every sports organization had an awareness of mentoring? What if every facilitator in a job finding club, employment preparation program or any retraining program was promoting mentorship? What if every adult working with youth was provided with the support needed to incorporate mentoring into the program?