

Experience of Day School and Residential School

Frances Chartrand, Health Minister, Manitoba Métis Federation: I always think of the Métis people of Manitoba as the forgotten people and where we come from and where we're going. We are a proud nation I think about our harvesting and our hunting and trapping and how we used to take care of our families and how our ancestors took care of our families and how they were able to build log cabins and live in two worlds. So I think about how the government forgets that we have our own language our own culture, our own traditions. They talk about the residential schools and day schools, I attended day school. I attended day school in community of Duck Bay, and when I was 14 years old we had to go to residential school Frontier Collegiate. So let's just step back and talk about day school. We weren't allowed to speak our language in school. When we were 14 we left and went to school in Cranberry Portage. We came home at Easter, Christmas and spring break, so we were away from our family. We all stayed at the school and you made your own family. So, you lose your identity, you lose your feeling of home and moving away from there and missing your family, missing great experiences and celebration of life, celebration of anything. Métis people celebrate a lot of stuff and they celebrate all our successes, our victories. When I left at age 14 and didn't go back until I was finished university. I want people to understand where we come from and what we do. We went through these schools same as the First Nations, we went through the residential school process. You lose your identity, you lose your language and culture.