

Kimberly LaFromboise



House Natural Resource Committee
May 26, 2022

RE: "THE TRUTH AND HEALING
COMMISSION ON INDIAN BOARDING
SCHOOL POLICIES IN THE U.S. ACT"
(H.R.5444 AND S.2907)

Dear Sirs and Madams,

My name is Kimberly LaFromboise. I am the descendant of Samuel Harvey and Lillian Mae Harvey; both survivors of Indian Boarding Schools.

Through Indian relocation, my grandmother saved her children from being sent to boarding school. In hindsight it was just another means to further assimilation and remove us from our tribe.

As a child growing up, I was always aware of the terror and horror that my family members experienced as attendees at these schools. I cannot attest to the personal horrors but only to the affects it has had on me.

I attempted to start this letter over and over, but it was honestly overwhelming to do an analysis of the effects it had on our family. I will just say plainly that many of my family members turned to substance abuse because not feeling was

better than remembering. Many didn't even know how to parent because their own parents were taken away as children.

There has always been a longing for what could have been or what was lost.

I am writing this to honor my ancestors and to somehow help them in their healing. I do this daily by trying to restore the things the government and church so brutally stripped from them.

I am reconnecting to my language, traditions, ceremonies and learning every day how I can honor my Mother Earth.

I am writing this to say, "We are still here." You did not break us all the way. It's not us who should be ashamed any longer. It's you.

What you do to rectify it is on you, but I can tell you that I will never be ashamed to be an "Indian" like you instilled in my Great Grandfather and my grandmother will feel pride when she hears me say, "My name is Nimkii Kwe and I am Anishinaabeg".

My Question to you is: What will our oppressors do for their healing? What change will you be to rectify your ancestor's past?

In looking at yourselves, perhaps you will help society to rectify the wrong done. I'm from a strong people that withstood years of abuse. I'm good. Are you?

FREE LEONARD PELTIER

Sincerely,
Kimberly LaFromboise