

Ep 54: The Catholic Church and Canada's residential schools

Full shownotes and subscriber information: <https://www.secularism.org.uk/podcast/2021/07/ep-54>

0:00:07.600,0:00:11.920

"Not one single residential school was ever built with a playground

He recommended the establishment of boarding schools to take indigenous children away from

0:00:12.560,0:00:17.760

but every single residential school had ample space for a cemetery."

0:00:55.840,0:01:01.600

the influence of their communities and supposedly

0:00:23.600,0:00:27.360

You're listening to Episode 54 of the National Secular Society podcast produced

civilise them. Influenced by Davin's report the

0:00:27.360,0:00:32.000

by Emma Park (EP). I will be looking at Canada's residential schools for indigenous children and

0:01:01.600,0:01:05.920

Canadian government established several residential schools. The system lasted for

0:00:32.000,0:00:36.720

the role of the Catholic Church in running them.

0:01:05.920,0:01:11.440

over 100 years until the last school was closed

This episode contains some distressing material.

in 1998. Many schools were run on a day-to-day

0:00:37.440,0:00:42.480

In 1879 Nicholas Flood Davin, a lawyer, journalist and politician was asked by the Canadian

0:01:11.440,0:01:16.400

basis by the Catholic church which was involved in

0:00:42.480,0:00:47.280

government to investigate so-called Indian education in the USA. Davin published the results

the forced removal of children from their families

0:00:47.280,0:00:52.080

of his investigations in a report entitled "On industrial schools for Indians and half breeds".

0:01:16.400,0:01:21.600

and in bringing them up under extremely harsh

0:00:52.080,0:00:55.840

conditions. It has taken Canadians a long time to

0:01:21.600,0:01:26.160

come to terms with this aspect of their country's

past, which still casts a shadow over indigenous

0:01:26.160,0:01:31.280

communities today. The survivors of the schools have also long kept silent about their experiences

0:01:31.280,0:01:36.880
out of fear of stigmatisation But in the last two decades they have started to speak out. Their

0:01:36.880,0:01:41.200
stories do not reflect well either on the state or on the religious organisations involved, above

0:01:41.200,0:01:45.760
all the Catholic church. Despite this, the Pope has still refused to make an official apology.

0:01:50.240,0:01:53.680
I'm joined now by Kerry Benjoe (KB). Kerry is a journalist from Regina,

0:01:53.680,0:01:58.560
Saskatchewan. Earlier this year she was hired as the first indigenous storyteller at CBC,

0:01:58.560,0:02:03.600
Canada's public broadcaster. Kerry, you attended a residential school yourself and you were the

0:02:03.600,0:02:09.440
fourth generation in your family to do so. First of all can you tell us a bit about yourself why

0:02:09.440,0:02:13.600
did you attend a residential school and how did you come from these beginnings to your

0:02:13.600,0:02:20.560
present profession in journalism? (KB): I didn't go as a child. I attended because

0:02:21.280,0:02:27.680

I needed to obtain my high school education and on reserve there was no high school offered.

0:02:27.680,0:02:34.240
So the only options for me at the time, well the only option, was to leave my community.

0:02:34.960,0:02:42.320
It was either find transportation into the nearest urban setting which would have been Regina or

0:02:43.120,0:02:50.800
attend residential school. At this time I was the youngest of eight and my Dad had recently passed

0:02:50.800,0:02:58.720
and my mother was the caregiver of our family and so my Dad took care of a lot of the business

0:02:58.720,0:03:07.680
aspects of the family and my Mom never learned to drive. And so that created a real barrier for her,

0:03:08.320,0:03:15.920
and so the only option left was residential school. (EP): What was it like being at a

0:03:15.920,0:03:23.920
residential school when you were there? (KB): It was very regimented. The best I can equate it to

0:03:23.920,0:03:31.840
is living in an institution. There was a lot of rules. There was a very set schedule. There were

0:03:31.840,0:03:36.880

times that we were required to get up; there was time scheduled for when we could wash; there was,

0:03:37.840,0:03:41.680

dinner times were set at a very specific time; there were chores; there was

0:03:42.560,0:03:50.240

school time; there was study and our free time.

And so it was - we were always supervised.

0:03:50.240,0:03:57.360

There was always somebody there to make sure that we followed this schedule. And

0:03:58.480,0:04:05.280

it's very different from growing up in a family.

I

went from living with my Mom who made me breakfast

0:04:05.280,0:04:14.960

every day to living in a dorm with strangers.

And

having a stranger you know come into the our dorm,

0:04:14.960,0:04:19.680

tell us "Get up breakfast time!" and going to line up to get lunch so that

0:04:20.240,0:04:28.000

there was a lot of coldness there. There wasn't

that family feeling. (EP): What was the name of

0:04:28.000,0:04:35.120

your school and who was it run by? (KB): The Kopel

Indian Residential School, That was the school,

0:04:35.680,0:04:41.680

that was the name of it when I attended and

at the time the First Nation, the Star Blanket

0:04:41.680,0:04:48.960

Cree Nation, was in the process of taking it over. So I would, I attended at the very

0:04:49.760,0:04:58.000

early stages of that transition. So when I went the Church was already removed

0:04:59.040,0:05:06.400

from the school. So I didn't have to attend Church like my parents were required. (EP): To

0:05:06.400,0:05:12.400

what extent during your journalism career have

you covered stories about First Nation and other

0:05:12.400,0:05:20.480

indigenous communities. (KB): Well I started off my journalism career as a freelancer and

0:05:20.480,0:05:27.440

then that led me into a full-time permanent position at the Regina Leader Post which is

0:05:28.400,0:05:37.840

a part of the Post media newspaper chain and

when I started there back in 2006 I was the first

0:05:39.200,0:05:50.800

indigenous reporter hired full time in the paper's

123 year history. I realised that I was in a very

0:05:50.800,0:06:03.280

unique position, that I had the opportunity to finally amplify the voices of indigenous people.

0:06:03.280,0:06:12.400

And so while I was there I made it a point to seek out and tell stories from indigenous people and

0:06:12.400,0:06:20.080
from their perspective, as well as to provide some historical context within my stories, just to give

0:06:20.080,0:06:27.040
people, the readership, a broader understanding of indigenous people and try to bridge that

0:06:27.040,0:06:34.080
gap between indigenous and non-indigenous people. Because you have to remember for more than a

0:06:34.080,0:06:41.120
century indigenous people operated completely separately from the rest of society. Here in

0:06:41.120,0:06:49.040
Canada like our experiences are completely different from the average Canadian. And for

0:06:49.840,0:06:59.440
generations our voice has never made it into mainstream media. We only made it in when

0:06:59.440,0:07:06.800
maybe there was a protest. It was either a crime committed; you would see an indigenous person,

0:07:07.360,0:07:14.320
a court case or something like that. Or if they're dancing Powwow you would see photos of it.

0:07:15.040,0:07:25.840

And so the perception of indigenous people was very limited. We were either dancing or we were

0:07:25.840,0:07:34.320
dangerous. (EP): Now you're the fourth generation in your family and you and your ancestors of your

0:07:34.320,0:07:39.440
immediate family and your parents and grandparents and so forth went to the same residential school

0:07:39.440,0:07:45.440
in Saskatchewan. What were your parents', grandparents', great grandparents' experiences

0:07:45.440,0:07:52.720
of this school? (KB): You have to remember that the experience from generations before me

0:07:54.320,0:08:04.480
were extreme. They were violent. They were traumatic. They're not common stories. (EP): What

0:08:04.480,0:08:11.360
was the earliest story you know about in your family. (KB): My Dad used to tell the story about,

0:08:11.360,0:08:21.200
and he used that sort of like a pep talk you know like to encourage us to to keep practising and to

0:08:21.200,0:08:31.040
keep going and to reach our full potential and he always told it with such pride and he talked

0:08:31.040,0:08:40.800

about being in school and running up and down the hills during break time because he attended the

0:08:41.840,0:08:49.040

Lebret and at the time education wasn't a big focus. The school was designed

0:08:49.840,0:08:59.600

primarily to train these children to take on manual labour jobs, like to provide cheap labour

0:08:59.600,0:09:05.520

for non-indigenous people and businesses. (EP): And this school was run by the Catholic

0:09:05.520,0:09:14.000

church? (KB): Yeah. And so part of his classes is he was working in the farm part of the school,

0:09:14.000,0:09:20.800

had an area where they had a dairy, teaching them how to care for animals and that sort of thing and

0:09:21.360,0:09:25.360

he said he he ran up up and down the hills every day during break

0:09:26.000,0:09:31.760

and he did that constantly for months. He said

he ran in the winter. He ran in the snow. He

0:09:31.760,0:09:38.080

ran in the spring when it was muddy and then my Mom had mentioned that my Dad was bald.

0:09:38.720,0:09:46.960

And I guess one spring day sometime in May because school is still going on he said that that day

0:09:48.560,0:09:55.600

he did his routine. He had done it so much that the supervisors at the time grew accustomed to him

0:09:56.160,0:09:59.760

doing this every day: running up and down the hill and coming back,

0:09:59.760,0:10:04.720

running up and coming back, running down and coming, running up and coming back. And so

0:10:05.520,0:10:14.000

one day he knew it was the right time. And he said and he laughed about it; he said he remembers

0:10:14.000,0:10:24.640

that first break. He said he ran up the hill and he looked back and like the supervisor and the

0:10:24.640,0:10:33.920

boys and all that were down there he said "And then I took off and I just kept running". And

0:10:34.880,0:10:42.160

by the time they realised that my Dad was running again they sent the senior boys to chase him

0:10:43.040,0:10:48.240

and my Dad had conditioned himself through those months of running up and down that hill.

0:10:49.760,0:10:57.360

He built up his stamina and his strength and that he ran so fast and he ran so far the senior boys

0:10:57.360,0:11:04.000

couldn't catch him so the senior boys ran and they got the horses. But my Dad was smart and he didn't

0:11:04.000,0:11:10.640

go home because the previous times he ran away he went home. But this time he didn't go home.

0:11:11.280,0:11:19.280

Instead he hid and he didn't talk about where he slept or anything like that but the next day

0:11:19.280,0:11:26.560

he went and found work at a local farm. He lied about his age - said he was 15 because at the time

0:11:27.120,0:11:34.560

if you're 15 you could work and so that's what he did. He made his way as a farmhand working for

0:11:34.560,0:11:42.400

different non-indigenous farmers and he didn't go home until like late in the year when harvest was

0:11:42.400,0:11:47.920

over. (EP): What an amazing story. Why did your father want to escape so much? What was it like

0:11:47.920,0:11:55.680

for him at this school? (KB): Obviously my Dad experienced probably the horrors of residential

0:11:55.680,0:12:03.760

school. I can only take a guess as to what it was like and how traumatic it must have been for him,

0:12:04.320,0:12:12.480

to keep doing this because he was a chronic runner and he ran away so much that his final year at the

0:12:12.480,0:12:18.560

school he was bald. He had to spend the entire almost the entire school year bald because he

0:12:18.560,0:12:26.080

kept running away. And what they would do was they would publicly humiliate these children. It didn't

0:12:26.080,0:12:33.280

matter um what gender they were but they would take these children and use them as an example

0:12:34.160,0:12:40.000

they would beat them in front of the other children to show them what would happen if they

0:12:40.000,0:12:47.360

disobeyed the rules and my dad's hair was shaved in front of all the all the rest of the children,

0:12:47.360,0:12:55.760

to make an example of him. But for some reason he wanted out of that place so bad that

0:12:56.400,0:13:03.120

he risked that every time he ran away and he knew he would be beaten, he knew he'd be shamed,

0:13:03.120,0:13:15.280

he knew he would be humiliated. So I can only take a guess as to the experiences that made a 12 year

0:13:15.280,0:13:21.840

old boy continuously try to escape. (EP): What else is known about what these schools were like?

0:13:22.480,0:13:27.360

What else have you found out in your own research and from talking to other people? (KB): I've heard

0:13:27.360,0:13:33.840

so many stories. I carry so many stories from the survivors because I've covered this topic

0:13:35.040,0:13:39.440

numerous times and I've talked too many survivors. And you have to remember

0:13:39.440,0:13:46.800

that a lot of people, the only way they've been able to cope with their past, is by

0:13:47.760,0:13:56.800

by quenching all that down and not revisiting it because it's too painful. It makes me sad to

0:13:56.800,0:14:03.120

hear of what so many children have to endure, You have to remember that at the time these schools,

0:14:03.920,0:14:10.640

they were basically elementary schools there. They took children as young as four years old

0:14:11.600,0:14:19.600

and if the parents didn't want to send them they

were taken by force by the RCMP and there were

0:14:19.600,0:14:24.800

Indian agents on these reserves so they knew which families had children so parents couldn't hide

0:14:25.520,0:14:33.200

their children. In the far North where there was a lot of force, there were stories, there are

0:14:33.200,0:14:40.720

stories of parents escaping with their children into the forest and you know hiding and being able

0:14:40.720,0:14:49.040

to prevent their children from being taken. I can share a story with you about my Mom's experience.

0:14:49.680,0:14:53.520

She went to residential school when she's around, when she was around five.

0:14:54.800,0:15:01.280

She was raised, she was the eldest in her family.

She was very well cared for, very well loved,

0:15:01.280,0:15:07.520

cherished and she spent a lot of time with her grandparents and she never went without.

0:15:07.520,0:15:16.800

She doesn't remember ever going hungry or having a lack of attention, having a lack of care

0:15:17.520,0:15:24.960

because you know she was surrounded by adults who loved and cherished her . She was taken

0:15:24.960,0:15:33.120
from that environment and placed in a residential school where she wasn't allowed to have her own

0:15:33.120,0:15:41.280
belongings. She couldn't have a doll. She couldn't have things from home. They were given uniforms.

0:15:41.280,0:15:47.440
Everybody was given the same uniform, the same haircut, the same treatment. They weren't allowed

0:15:48.000,0:15:54.960
any reminders of home and so children that were sent with things maybe that they valued and took

0:15:54.960,0:16:00.080
with them they were taken away when they entered those schools. And they were given nothing.

0:16:01.440,0:16:10.160
These schools didn't have playgrounds they didn't have anything that you would expect a

0:16:10.160,0:16:16.960
place that housed children to have. There were no toys. My Mom talked about being a little girl and

0:16:17.760,0:16:26.000
you know the going to chapel. They went to chapel every day and chapel was church. They had to

0:16:26.800,0:16:35.840

go to chapel in the morning and she said there were her and a group of girls who were cleaning

0:16:37.040,0:16:43.360
and, I don't know, I think they were cleaning the stairs in the chapel and the piano was there and

0:16:44.480,0:16:52.800
being little children they were curious and so they snuck up and they tapped the keys on the

0:16:52.800,0:17:00.800
piano and they ran away because you know the piano is loud and they knew that they would be punished

0:17:00.800,0:17:09.440
if they were caught, even like touching that. But you know she. when she told it to me, she had such

0:17:10.320,0:17:18.240
you know glee in her face because she remembers that one moment in time when you know she was

0:17:18.240,0:17:25.920
allowed to be a child and play and that really strikes me. Because we have to remember that

0:17:25.920,0:17:33.680
these children were required to work. They were required to attend church through their prayer.

0:17:34.640,0:17:40.000
They talked about always praying and doing and learning catechism and

0:17:41.920,0:17:50.560
attending mass and like daily. Like I talked
to a survivor who talked about she had was

0:17:50.560,0:17:55.520
excited to go to school because she thought
she was gonna learn. She thought she was

0:17:55.520,0:18:02.000
going to you know learn about the world
like things she heard on the radio. But no,

0:18:02.000,0:18:07.360
she didn't learn anything and she said the
only
thing she learned was catechism and how to
clean.

0:18:07.920,0:18:14.240
And so these children weren't there to get
an education although they said 'school',

0:18:14.240,0:18:23.520
these weren't schools. They were institutions
that
were created to just erase identity and pump
out

0:18:25.200,0:18:32.000
a cheap source of labour for other people, for
non-indigenous people. They weren't
expected to

0:18:32.000,0:18:38.640
make a living for themselves, they weren't .
The
expectations were very low, they were just
seen as

0:18:39.600,0:18:47.680
a commodity. And not one single residential
school
was ever built with a playground but every
single

0:18:47.680,0:18:56.080

residential school had ample space for a
cemetery.

(EP): Talking of cemeteries. just recently

0:18:56.080,0:19:03.760
there was of course the new discovery of
graves of
the 215 unmarked graves. These weren't the
first

0:19:03.760,0:19:10.640
to have been discovered but what what light
does the discovery of these new graves shed

0:19:10.640,0:19:17.680
on the residential schools? (KB): Ironically
this is not a news story for indigenous
people.

0:19:18.640,0:19:23.840
We've known about these stories
of children going missing,

0:19:24.800,0:19:34.240
these stories of survivors being forced to
dig graves and bury their fellow students

0:19:35.120,0:19:42.160
are common. If you went and listened to any
of
the records that were kept. There was a Truth
and

0:19:42.160,0:19:46.720
Reconciliation Commission and they travelled
throughout Canada gathering survivor stories

0:19:47.600,0:19:54.960
and survivors talked about this. They talked
about
people that went missing. My Dad's uncle
talked

0:19:54.960,0:20:03.040
about how his sister went missing. He
attended the
Labrat School. The School I went to, his sister

0:20:03.040,0:20:09.520

was in school at the same time as him and she went missing. He doesn't know what happened to her.

0:20:09.520,0:20:17.840

He doesn't know where she went. So we have people that know of children that died. Some of

0:20:17.840,0:20:23.760

them witnessed children being beaten to death in front of them. I have my Cree teacher. When I was

0:20:25.040,0:20:32.880

an elementary school student she had talked about this one girl who wet the bed one night.

0:20:33.440,0:20:40.080

She said because it was so cold and the reason she remembers it is because they got marched out and

0:20:40.080,0:20:49.840

she said they were standing on the the cold floor and the nun took this girl and she was making an

0:20:49.840,0:20:57.840

example of her. She was ridiculing her in front of the other children and she took one of the pokers

0:20:57.840,0:21:05.120

for the fire and she beat this girl with it and she beat her till that girl wasn't moving

0:21:05.760,0:21:10.480

and she said and then they told them to get ready and so you know the the kids had just

0:21:10.480,0:21:18.080

went in. They witnessed one of the students being beaten unconscious and so they hurried up and did

0:21:18.080,0:21:26.960

what they're doing and they went off and they went to church. And she said that girl's bed was empty

0:21:28.000,0:21:31.680

and she never came back she she doesn't know what happened to her.

0:21:32.880,0:21:40.160

Things like that - those are common stories that a lot of survivors witnessed,

0:21:41.360,0:21:47.520

children just disappearing in the night. They're going to bed and waking up and their bed is empty.

0:21:48.320,0:21:53.440

Just these disappearances and there's people too, there's survivors who talked about you

0:21:53.440,0:22:01.680

know in the middle of winter having to dig holes in the middle of the night and

0:22:03.440,0:22:11.520

you know being cold and digging these holes and just not knowing why they're digging the holes.

0:22:11.520,0:22:14.480

I think they knew why they're digging the holes so

0:22:15.680,0:22:24.800

we have people that have always told these stories of these children that are buried

0:22:24.800,0:22:30.640

there. They're somewhere there and so they carry these stories. They have been carried forward

0:22:31.360,0:22:36.400

and they were documented and they were shared with the Truth and Reconciliation Committee

0:22:36.400,0:22:43.760

and when the final report from the Truth and Reconciliation Committee was submitted,

0:22:44.480,0:22:56.080

one of the things requested was money to survey all these schools, locate these graves and do

0:22:56.080,0:23:04.320

what was right you know recognise these children and allow people to have that closure, allow

0:23:04.320,0:23:10.960

people to grieve for them because they weren't allowed that opportunity. But for some reason

0:23:11.520,0:23:18.960

the amount that was requested - I think it was around three million dollars it was denied. And

0:23:18.960,0:23:23.680

this is by the Canadian Government. The Canadian Government denied it. They didn't want to do it

0:23:24.640,0:23:33.760

and so a lot of communities, like in Kamloops, the community decided to look. They invested

0:23:33.760,0:23:41.760

the money. They are the ones that are looking and trying to locate these cemeteries that they know

0:23:41.760,0:23:47.440

are there, these grave sites that they know are there, and locate grave sites that they

0:23:48.160,0:23:54.240

aren't aware of. Like this happened in Brandon as well, Brandon, Manitoba. There was a number of

0:23:56.320,0:24:01.600

grave sites that were there, that people knew where they were there but no one listened.

0:24:01.600,0:24:07.680

When they said you know you can't build there there's a cemetery there, there's people there,

0:24:07.680,0:24:13.440

there's children that are buried there, because it was near the site of an old residential school

0:24:14.400,0:24:20.800

and so they've been ignored. Like indigenous people have been saying that

0:24:20.800,0:24:27.920

these things are there but no one was listening and it wasn't until Kamloops

0:24:27.920,0:24:34.720

and that was missing yeah that was in June that

was the 215. Kao was this first nation located

0:24:34.720,0:24:39.840

here in Saskatchewan. It's about 45 minutes

outside of Regina. There was a residential school

0:24:39.840,0:24:46.160

there called the Maryville Indian Residential School and people knew there was a cemetery there.

0:24:46.800,0:24:54.960

They weren't sure of how big it was or who was all there because when the school closed down and the

0:24:56.000,0:25:03.040

whatever headstones or whatever were removed by the Catholic Church so although there was

0:25:03.040,0:25:10.080

at one time recognition that was the cemetery the headstones were removed and so the reserve,

0:25:10.080,0:25:19.520

the community had to do their own investigation and try to locate where these graves are. (EP):

0:25:19.520,0:25:23.600

Is it known why the Catholic Church removed the gravestones? (KB): Because they were leaving

0:25:23.600,0:25:28.560

the reserve and they probably thought that was their property so they took it. (EP): What has

0:25:28.560,0:25:36.240

the Catholic Church done in Canada to acknowledge the role that it played in these schools? Both as

0:25:36.240,0:25:41.680

a whole and individual institutions within individual churches, the individual churches

0:25:41.680,0:25:51.440

and the Catholic church as an institution have reacted very differently. The institution itself

0:25:53.920,0:26:02.000

has struck their feet on acknowledging their role and the part they played in the destruction

0:26:02.000,0:26:11.280

of indigenous communities, indigenous families. They had committed to fundraising and providing

0:26:11.840,0:26:18.240

a financial support for Indian residential school survivors and they agreed that they would pay \$25

0:26:18.240,0:26:28.080

million and they didn't. I think they came with \$3 million, said they were not able to raise um

0:26:28.800,0:26:38.720

the \$20-25 million that they agreed to and so the court said okay fine that's okay. Canada has made

0:26:39.920,0:26:47.360

attempts to get the Catholic church, primarily the Pope, to issuing an apology or recognise

0:26:48.000,0:26:55.440

their part and their role they played in the destruction of indigenous families and in

0:26:55.440,0:27:03.280

the destruction of indigenous people here in Canada and they've chosen not to. But when it

0:27:03.280,0:27:14.080
comes to individual churches, individual people here in Saskatchewan, their attitude is different.

0:27:15.120,0:27:22.400
Although many of the the ones that are here now had no knowledge of these schools

0:27:22.400,0:27:29.280
they didn't partake in these schools. They are recognising the role the Catholic church

0:27:30.240,0:27:39.840
played in these places and a lot of individual churches are reaching out and showing support and

0:27:40.800,0:27:49.200
trying to build those bridges and recognising the wrong doing. But they're doing it

0:27:49.200,0:27:54.480
individually. (EP): For you Kerry - what would you like to see the Catholic church

0:27:54.480,0:28:01.440
doing as a whole to help sort of bring about truth and reconciliation? (KB): I think there was,

0:28:01.440,0:28:08.880
there have been a lot of things done a lot of things that have been asked of the Catholic

0:28:08.880,0:28:16.880
church as an institution and they've failed. And for me; I'm only speaking for me; I'm tired

0:28:17.840,0:28:31.360
I'm tired of asking if they aren't willing to even recognise the wrong, then saying 'I'm sorry' now

0:28:32.640,0:28:40.000
having the Pope come out and say 'I'm sorry', it really doesn't mean anything. It doesn't

0:28:40.880,0:28:51.840
erase more than 100 years of history and what is 'I'm sorry' gonna do? I'd rather see some concrete

0:28:51.840,0:28:59.760
results. A lot of reserves here in Canada are still living below the poverty line. They don't

0:28:59.760,0:29:06.480
have access to clean water. They have inadequate housing. The infrastructure is pitiful. At best

0:29:07.120,0:29:12.720
food security is an issue. Education is still an issue. There's a lot of communities that

0:29:12.720,0:29:18.240
still have to send their children away to get an education and this is just

0:29:18.240,0:29:26.320
basic education. K-12 - most reserves don't have that. That's so sad that that still exists and

0:29:26.320,0:29:32.560
until those things are rectified, unless the Catholic church is willing to

0:29:33.200,0:29:41.600
you know support change and bring up the standard of living on reserves to that of municipalities,

0:29:41.600,0:29:48.240
and their non-indigenous counterparts, then I don't want to hear 'I'm sorry'. (KB):

0:29:48.240,0:29:53.040
Kerry Benjoe, thank you so much for sharing your experience. It's been a really really

0:29:53.040,0:29:58.480

moving interview so thank you very much for coming on the podcast. (KB): All right, thank you.

0:30:04.080,0:30:09.280

This episode was produced by the National Secular Society, all rights reserved. The views expressed

0:30:09.280,0:30:14.240

by contributors do not necessarily represent those of the NSS. You can access the show

0:30:14.240,0:30:19.120

notes and subscriber information for this and all our episodes at secularism.org.uk/podcast.

0:30:21.600,0:30:26.240

For feedback, comments and suggestions please email podcast@secularism.org.uk.

0:30:27.440,0:30:31.920

If you enjoyed this episode please subscribe and leave us a positive review wherever you can.

0:30:32.640,0:30:35.840

Thanks for listening and I hope you can join us next time.