



I am Secwepemc, and I am Cree
You caused my temporary loss of identity
We never learned of our history in class
And all of a sudden, it is perfect you ask?

Integration vs. Assimilation
To join, no separation or conformation
I am Secwepemc, and I am Cree
Yet, I never learned about me

I hide behind my pale skin
In hopes to not be seen by my next-door kin
But in my hiding, I am outcasted by my own
White privilege on the outside, is all that is
shown

Twenty years later, my identity I now own
It took you too long, I had to find it all alone
You're finally taking steps, so the next gen has
a chance
But you need to realize, it won't happen at a
glance

Incorporating and integrating my culture in
school
Took too long, and still struggles in the rural
Another generation lost to what education
spout
Education got us in this mess but Education
will get us out

But to re-learn what I've learned, takes
patience and time
I want to teach my students my culture, but I
am not fine
You cut funding in the arts, and that's not okay
Canadian Property Tax and Income Tax, supply
you- so pay!

In my culture, we dance and sing
We sew, we carve, we do almost anything
We explore our learning and respect the land
But without your funding, you think we can?

Learning Leadership is critical for Reform and
Innovation
But for our Indigenous learners, you think
you'll get participation?
To learn, reform and innovate is something we
need to fix
Remember it was you, who implemented the
Indian Act of 1876

1996, the last prison of my people was shut
down,
24 years later, you think we've forgotten our
rooted grounds?
Think again, for your truth is your bond, so
education you must fund
You best know your reconciliation has only
begun

You've come to acknowledge that assessment
shows in many ways
Learning Leadership requires creativity and
courage displayed
Support me to provide my students a safe
place to shine
For their contributions sometimes is listening,
and that is just fine

Through the heart of a teacher, I will teach
who I am
Help bring back a culture through the
curriculum
To Teach Reform and Innovation, is a Learning
Leadership for me
For I am Secwepemc and I am Cree

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