

A DAY TO LISTEN - ISAAC MURDOCH

My name is Isaac Murdock and I'm from Serpent River First Nation. I'll tell you a story, and it's a bit of a personal story. Back in the seventies, my youngest brother Francis, my brother Mike and my brother Scotty were all involved in an Indian Act apprehension. And I remember my mother screaming and crying and she didn't want us to be taken away. And they carried this into the van. And we were quickly sped off. But what they didn't know was a three-year-old was hiding underneath a van. And the van ran over him and he survived, but his hair fell out and the doctor said his hair fell out because of the fear of what took place. And he had patches in his head for years afterwards.

Recently I was talking to him and I said, what do you think about all this talk about the Indian Act and the Indian agents? And he says, "You know what? Love is the greatest thing. He goes, Love is the most powerful thing. Why should I be mad at anything? Because it always feels better to love something than to hate something." And he's been disabled his entire life because of this incident. And so that message that he gives of love and hope and peace. I think is such a powerful message. Because ultimately that's what's going to change things. That's the medicine right there.

And you know, I think that a lot of our people went through hard times. We suffered the intergenerational effects of residential school. And there is a lot of damage done to our communities through pollution, through all sorts of environmental factors, not having clean drinking water. You know, the loss of our lands and our family units. But that doesn't mean that we don't exist. What it means is that we're still here and that we're uniting. And now we are multiplying like rabbits. And that we're not going away. We are here. And so it's time now. To work together to make this place better. And I believe that we can do it because within all of us we have the greatest thinkers and we have the greatest heart people to make this happen. And just like my brother said, we just have to love everything. And so I just wanted to share that with you. Thank you. Miigwetch.