

A DAY TO LISTEN - NANCY HOLLMAN

Hi, my name is Nancy Homan. I am sitting on Treaty 6 here in Edmonton, Alberta. I am a Cree speaking Metis woman and love my language and I keep it strong going in community and in family. I grew up speaking only Cree. Cree was my first language, so we always communicated through Cree. Mum and Dad spoke Cree. We all spoke Cree and I treasure those moments. I really do.

You know, both my parents are gone. There's a lot of elders that have passed on and, you know, taking the Cree language as we lose an elder, we lose a knowledge keeper, we lose our language teachers. And so I find it so important to keep this language alive. I want to say a few words from Glen Anaquod, the residential school survivor on the documentary 'We Were Children'. Glen mentioned in his documentary, it says, "People will listen. People will believe." That day has come. Canadian Red Cross deployed me out to Kamloops, B.C., for social emergency for the 215 plus children they found. And I was on the ground and saw the heartbreak, the tears.

And Nancy is the strong, Indigenous, Metis woman, but this has taken me down to my knees. It's really important at this time to have a lot of Indigenous voices being raised and in support for the communities. They need ceremonies. They need prayers. They just need people to come together and realize now it's here. We can connect with the ones that they've lost as children to be able to find families and know that these children were loved and missed. So supporting them in ceremony and saying, "Hey, we found you. You can go home now. We found you."