

Guidelines

Remember to get the message out

Speak out from the heart if words on paper fail, just be you

Deliver the message

Good evening ladies and gentlemen! I am blessed to be here tonight with you, as your valedictorian to celebrate our time spent together sharing, learning, and growing.

I would like to describe myself to you all, and try to stay with a theme as we go along, a theme that I'll chose as education. I'll try to remain concise to this theme so there is little to no distraction to these points.

I grew up indigenous, pretty much, for the most part on a reservation. The thing about this fact is that the situation surrounding my reservation is truly unique, which in turn makes us unique. Our specific band of nearby communities lived on a nearby series of trading routes vastly important to the popular fur trading industry followed by the colonized world.

As residents of a real reservation, we were the rare constituents of those first agreements that got the chance to experience the so-called Great North American Indigenous Dream. From the earliest types of constitution forming in Canada, to the inner splendor, protection, and beauty that forestry offers to northern Ontarians we natives to the land really got the chance to enjoy the riches the

western world brought with them and the knowledge they had to share with us.

We learned from our ancestral elders through storytelling and through life lessons administered during various stages of life to pass information to next generations. This is how we formed history in our lives. Because of you, from another land, our way of life changed and we adapted together in various positive directions. We as native people changed a lot and it is in the direction of learning that changed most for us the indigenous people, as we took to achieving higher forms of education that changed learning for us. Education was always relevant in the present tense of my life, as I grew up indigenously, and was with conviction the best way for my people now more than ever. I will share with you the knowledge handed down to us in camps as a youth heard as a child. Listening as a child to the words spoken through the lips of Elders, they would describe the earliest visitors as paddlers and always moving to destinations. They would describe them to us, "voyageurs we strong," "always clean." Education teaches me at this stage of my life in classrooms that these men were the direct representations of early France! The Elders next described to us stories about our relatives and about how "back" rivers "connect" and how we must "hurry" to learn about the rivers positions through the old ways before they get forgotten, and before we lose our ways back home to where they speak of how we come from areas known as the James Bay area. As a child, I can recall the old Hudson Bay Company closing to be later named the Northern store. In school, education teaches me that this is England, founders of Canada, and the rivers were part of their massive fur trading industry that connects them to their homeland. The elders also explain how the riches in their life concerning how to read and write, how to conduct oneself in society, how having faith works and how we are saved from wrong doing is brought to us by strict, kind, and loving people who are known as priests and nuns. Education teaches me that these are the direct relations of those who arrived from Italy, a segment of them that is known as the Vatican.

Education is still relevant to my present tense of ongoing life. It's something that evolves and forms with me, and even when it seems full or ripened, it still has ways to grow and evolve further. It is an inferno that is infinite, an inferno that is a passion, which is experienced by those who really believe in the educational process.

The passion in education is where we meet here at this graduation, and the warmth of the fire, the fire ignited in us all by these great Professors and Doctors, is what makes us truly unique and able to experience our successes.

Tonight I've described how I have faith in education, and about how it was a viable tool used as a reference to which was taught by the Elders. These are the facts I set out to share with you so I can relay the message to you about the importance of days, months, and years to come after graduation. Remember that you have a fire inside you. A fire much like the one that burns out there within the elements of nature which also requires nurturing in the promoting longevity of its' life. It's a fire you must care for to ensure continuance. Like the scenario of a fire keeper and the element of fire, you need to recognize the opportunity presented to you and act out to these further chances of growth offered to you. In whatever decision you make in this time of your lives, I truly hope you every success.

Thank you, Goodnight.

Christian Bananish

