

Language & Culture Loss - Gladys Hawk - OSEU 3

I think it would be important for them to know it was taken away from us in the late 1800's by the federal government. And so, they established schools and had our ancestors taken away from their families to get them assimilated into the new society...so we could become farmers for example...or we could become teachers maybe...bakers...cooks...or whatever of the time. So that concept came on down until it reached the point where now women are just as equal to men in positions of work and employment. So perhaps maybe there is another way to explain that. I'm not too sure either. If there's something I don't know, then I don't like to say too much about it because I could be wrong. Anyway, that part of our culture has changed through the years. In 1995, they brought back our language through an act of Congress. Before that in 1978, they told us that we could practice our religion. That was a law that came...and it was part of our culture forever...until it was taken from us. And there's a whole span of two generations I will say where we couldn't do anything. And that's where we lost a lot of cultural stuff...our practicing...our ways. But now it's different. It's coming back. And it's people like myself and Stephanie...whoever else. We're trying to bring those things back so that the future kids...or students I should say...I should say kids...I even called my students kids in my classroom. But if we could ask the teachers to instill that into the children...that we are trying to teach them our culture...perhaps we might have a different look, a new look.