

LOVE, LAND & SPIRIT PODCAST

Episode 5: LGBTQ2S+ Youth Navigating the Child Welfare and Education System “For the Youth”

Over the course of this season of *Love, Land, and Spirit*, we have attached a primer to each episode that talks about some of the research we did behind the scenes, how to engage with it, and where to look if you're interested in learning more. With episode five, we will be doing things a little differently. Because we aren't really giving you much of a “primer” at all.

If you followed the show notes and research primer for episode 3, *Art is Ceremony and Ceremony is Art*, you may remember reading about how a lot of the time, Indigenous experiences in settler societies like Canada are only really listened to on a wide stage if they are traumatic. There is no greater example of this than in the treatment of the topic of Indigenous youth in care. As you will hear, or have already heard, in episode 5, this phenomenon is extremely harmful to Indigenous youth, and as a podcast team, we were not interested in sharing trauma. We were not willing to ask people to share the dark parts of their stories that only they can decide to tell.

In many ways, the research into Indigenous youth in care follows a similar trajectory. As we dove into this research, while we understood that understanding the harms foster care systems have done to Indigenous children and youth is crucial to raising awareness, we found the distinct lack of the perspectives of Indigenous children and youth in care, and also a lack of acknowledging the strength and crucial work of both former and current youth in care to run counter to what we are trying to do with this podcast.

There are enough stories of the traumatic experiences of Indigenous children and youth in care available for those interested in learning more to find. There are not enough stories of their strength, brilliance, community care organizing, and resilience. This episode of *Land, Love, and Spirit* is a shining example of these strengths.

Throughout *Love, Land, and Spirit*, we have wanted listeners to understand that Indigenous youth, Elders, or community members without post-secondary schooling, are experts on these topics in their own right and should be recognized with the same reverence as those with PhDs. With *LGBTQ2S+ Youth Navigating the Child Welfare and Education System “For the Youth”*, we want to encourage listeners to really focus on the experts who hosted the podcast, and the experts who shared their stories with the hosts. We will be providing a further reading list as always, but we leave you to explore on your own after you have listened intently to what our experts in episode 5 have said. Remember the strength, joy, and care you've witnessed in them first.

The Guests

Valeen Jules: From the Nuu-chah-nulth and Kwakwaka'wakw nations, she is a radio producer, youth outreach worker and spoken-word artist, community organizer, workshop facilitator, filmmaker, and doula with a passion for, nation building and QTBIPOC liberation. [Extended Biography](#).

Lynn Wainwright: An Anishinaabe retired teacher who now works as a teacher-consultant for Indigenous education. [More information about her perspective as an educator](#).

Other Information Sources Mentioned

94 Calls to Action: "Delivering on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action." *Government of Canada*, 2021, <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1524494530110/1557511412801> Accessed 8 March 2022.

2016 *Canadian Census*. Statistics Canada, 2021, <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/index-eng.cfm> Accessed 8 March 2022.

Events Mentioned

First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) Conference: The FNESC is a policy and advocacy organisation that represents and works on behalf of First Nations in British Columbia. FNESC has a mandate to support First Nation Students and Advance First Nation Education in BC. [More information on their website](#).

Further Reading and Watching

The Current. "The Millennium Scoop: Indigenous Youth Say Care System Repeats Horrors of the Past." *CBC Radio*, 25 January, 2018. <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-millennium-scoop-indigenous-youth-say-care-system-repeats-horrors-of-the-past-1.4503179>

Edwards, Kyle. "Why Indigenous Children are Overrepresented in Canada's Foster Care System." *YouTube*, uploaded by MacLean's, 29 November 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBLCd7yle8g>

Goldsmith, Wendy. "Save The Sob Story: Vancouver Foundation's Youth Advisory Circle Conceives a New Ending to an 'Age Out' Tale." *Vancouver Foundation*, 1 December 2014. <https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/whats-new/save-sob-story>

- Massinon, Sylvia. *Honouring the Voices of 2SLGBTQ+ Youth in Care Within Manitoba*. 2020. Master's Thesis, University of Manitoba. *mpace*, https://mpace.lib.umanitoba.ca/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1993/34907/massinon_sylvia.pdf;jsessionid=573E1864C2BAC403A9FEF5D7364AC17B?sequence=4
- Mellor, Andrea, Denise Cloutier, and Nick Claxton. "Youth Will Feel Honoured if They Are Reminded They Are Loved: Supporting Coming of Age for Urban Indigenous Youth in Care." *International Journal of Indigenous Health*, vol. 16, no. 2, 2021, pp. 308–321.
- Obomsawin, Alanis. "Jordan River Anderson, The Messenger." *YouTube*, uploaded by National Film Board, 31 August 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8qLxrFkcjQ>
- Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres. "Supporting Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTTT1QQIA Youth in the Ontario Child Welfare System: A Joint Submission Regarding the Ministry of Children and Youth Services' Development of a Resource Guide for LGBTTT1QQIA Youth." 2015, https://indigenousto.ca/Policy_Youth_1a.pdf
- Quinn, Ashley L. "Experiences and well-being among Indigenous former youth in care within Canada." *Child Abuse and Neglect*, vol. 123, 2022, pp. 1–9.
- Smith, Marie-Danielle. "Power List: Cindy Blackstock: A Relentless Champion for Indigenous Children's Right." *MacLean's*, 18 January 2021. <https://www.macleans.ca/society/cindy-blackstock-a-relentless-champion-for-indigenous-childrens-rights/>
- Walquan Metallic, Naomi, et al. "Special Report: The Promise and Pitfalls of C-92: An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth and Families." *Yellowhead Institute*, 4 July, 2019, <https://yellowheadinstitute.org/bill-c-92-analysis/#:-:text=On%20June%2021%2C%202019%2C%20Bill,area%20of%20Indigenous%20child%20welfare.>