

DECONSTRUCTING MYTHS

Participants' Handouts



GROUP 1:

Indigenous parents don't take care of their kids...

- Indigenous people have lots of kids and don't look after them.
- Parents are irresponsible and just let anyone raise their kids.
- They don't take care of their kids' teeth and health.
- They don't care what happens to their kids.

GROUP 2: Indigenous parents and their children don't value education...

- Indigenous parents don't care if their kids get an education.
- They don't support their children by going to the school (PAC meetings, parent/teacher interviews).
- They don't read with their kids or help them with homework.
- Indigenous children don't care if they get an education.
- They are always late for school or don't show up because they are lazy.
- They are not as smart as other kids.

GROUP 3: Indigenous people are criminals...

- Indigenous people are more violent than non-Indigenous people.
- They are a bunch of alcoholics and are deep into the drug trade.
- Indigenous women choose to go into prostitution because they are promiscuous.
- Indigenous people steal because they are too lazy to work, and you have to watch them all of the time...that's why the police always have to arrest them.
- Indigenous men go to jail in the winter because they just want to get a warm place to live and not pay rent.

GROUP 4: Indigenous people are always looking for a free ride...

- Indigenous people are lazy, and they just want to live on welfare.
- They are a burden to taxpayers.
- They don't pay taxes.
- They live on the street and look for handouts.
- They get free health care.
- They get free housing.
- Every First Nations person who wants to go to post-secondary school gets a free education.
- Even though there is no racism anymore, Indigenous people are always pulling out the "racism card" so they can do whatever they want to.

GROUP 5: Indigenous people are always complaining about how rough they have it...



- Indigenous people are still complaining about residential schools, even though it happened a long time ago and only a few of them went.
- If they want to get their culture back, they should go live in a teepee somewhere and stop bothering everybody else.
- They got their money—what else do they want?
- How many times do we have to apologize?
- They should just get over it.

GROUP 6: We are past the rough part now, as Canadians...everyone knows about this stuff now, so we don't have to keep teaching it.

- Canadians have all heard more about residential schools than they need to know so we can stop talking about it now.
- Everyone is treated equally in Canada now, so we don't need to worry about this happening again.
- All teachers know about residential schools, treaties, and the true history of Canada, and they are all teaching their students about this.