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Oh Canada. Our Canada. One of Four Against

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Fyre Jean Graveline

Oh Canada. Our Canada. One of Four Against.

DRUM
FLUTE
SONG

September 13. 2007. History. in the Making.

a long time. Long Time. in the Making.

After over. 500 years of Colonization.

Worldwide annihilation. Genocide.

People. finally came. to the Declaration.

Meeting. 22 years.

Imagine. 22 years. in the Making.

Negotiating. Drafting. Redrafting. Satisfying. 143 member countries.

The United Nations. Declaration. on the Rights.

of Indigenous Peoples.

“ a sign of the international community’s commitment. to protection. of the
rights. of Indigenous peoples” they say¹.

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SONG

Since September 13, 2007.

The United Nations. now says.

Indigenous peoples. have Rights.

Rights. to Self-Determination.

Rights. to Participation in Society.

Rights. to Freedom from Discrimination.

Hey! Anybody here ever win a Human

Graveline

Rights Case? in Canada?
I never have. No One. ever does.
No Injun person. Anywuss.

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Since September 13, 2007.

The United Nations. now says.

Indigenous peoples. have Rights.

to maintain our Spiritual. Linguistic. and Cultural identity.

Does this mean I can burn Smudge.

and Drum in classes without being harrassed?

Or get my trips to get Doctored by a

Medicine Person paid for under Medicare or

Blue Cross?

Or that Indigenous language programs

will finally become part of public

schooling?

Or every Canadian will have to learn

Cree?

The largest Aboriginal linguistic

group in Canada.

I doubt it.

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SONG

Since September 13, 2007.

The United Nations now says.

Indigenous Peoples have Rights.

to Lands and Resources.

Wow. The end of clearcutting of Sacred Forests?

No more digging up of Burial Sites for golf courses?

This is Revolutionary.

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Graveline

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Oh Canada. Our Canada. Voted Against.
I am Ashamed. to call myself Canadian.
in the Indigenous World. Today.
Right Now.
For all. the Canadian History. I know.
And have Raged. and Cried.
Long and Hard over.
I have Never. been so Ashamed. to be Canadian.
“This is a stain on the country’s international reputation,”
says AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine.

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SONG

And Canada. Oh Canada. Our Canada. is One. One of Four against.
Four. prosperous fourth world countries.
Four. have become wealthy off Indigenous lands.
Four. continue to exploit Indigenous resources.
turning Treaty Rights. into Wrongs.
Four. do not recognize Indigenous Rights to Survive.

Union of BC Chiefs Grand Chief Stewart Phillip tells it:
“It is truly ironic that the four first world countries that have become
prosperous through the exploitation of the lands and resources of the
Indigenous peoples, including Canada, chose to oppose the adoption of the
declaration” (8).

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SONG

And Canada. Oh Canada. Our Canada. is One. One of Four against.
Home of the free and brave. Champion of equal rights.
states “significant concerns”
Yes. Concerns. for the rights of Whites.
Rights to continue to inhabit.

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is a Myth.
 Neo-Nazi. KKK. Canada.
 Now that's more like it.

DRUM.FLUTE.SONG

Thanks Stephen Harper.
 for showing the Rest of the World
 How it Really is. Here.
 Here. In Oh Canada. Our Canada.
 where Indigenous Canadians. have No Rights.
 No. self-determination.
 No. participation in society.
 No. freedom from discrimination.
 Here. In Oh Canada. Our Canada.
 Where Indigenous Canadians. have No Rights.
 No Right. to Spiritual.Linguistic.Cultural. Identity.
 Here. In Oh Canada. Our Canada.
 Where Indigenous Canadians. have No Rights.
 No Rights. to Lands. and Resources.
 No Rights. to continued Survival.
 as Indigenous Peoples.

DRUM
 FLUTE
 SONG

Unfortunately.
 This is not New. News.
 Here in Academia. We should know this.
 Read Any history book. even the Colonial versions tell it.
 Indigenous Canadians. have Never. been Entitled.
 to any Rights.
 Our forms of government have been outlawed.
 Hereditary Chiefs dispossessed.
 We have never had any real Voice.
 in the governance of Canada.
 Except for maybe once.
 when Elijah Harper said No.
 to the Meech Lake Accord.
 Discrimination at every level is. Institutionalized.

Legislated. in the Indian Act.
Our Elders. were Jailed. for our Spiritual Practices.
Beaten for speaking our Languages.
We have had our cultural Artifacts.
Adornments. and Stories.
Appropriated. Distorted and Objectified.
Our Lands. have been Stolen. Raped of resources.
With No compensation.
We have been subjected. to all forms of Genocide.
including Mass Murder.
Same.old. same.old. News. History is.

DRUM.FLUTE.SONG

And through all of this. Five Hundred Years. of Genocide.
Oh Canada. Our Canada. has somehow maintained.
a “perfect” international reputation.
Imagine. A Perfect Reputation.
Well. the Real News. is finally out.
“Indigenous people in Canada must be going through hell,”
acknowledges Joseph Ole Simel.
Hell it is.
It is Hell. to be an Indigenous Canadian right now.
My hopes are Dashed. My illusions are Smashed.
Canada blew it. Blew their.our Chance.
Not. to be Perfect.
Nobody. is Perfect.
Canada blew their.our chance to show Respect.
To Respect. Indigenous Peoples Rights.
To Reconcile. our painful history.
To Resolve. to move forward together.
on the path of Human Rights.
Justice. and
Development.
for all Canadians.
Not just the Rich.
Or the White.

Oh Canada. Our Canada. You scare me.
when you publically apologize

for the “sad chapter” of Canadian History:
the Residential School Genocideⁱⁱ.
And one year later publically announce in the G-20
meeting that Canada has “no history of
colonialism”ⁱⁱⁱ

WTF! Over.

ⁱ All quotes are from an article published in the October 2007 edition of Windspeaker, Canada’s National Aboriginal News Source, p. 8.

ⁱⁱ On June 11, 2008, less than one year after the vote against, Stephen Harper publically apologized in the House of Commons for the damages done through Residential Schools. We have yet to see any actions to reconcile this with the realities of those living with the ongoing devastation this government policy caused.

ⁱⁱⁱ On September 25, 2009, just over one year after his public apology admitting government responsibility for the legacy of the Residential Schooling Stephen Harper bragged to the G20 international gathering of leaders about how good Canada has it, including “We also have no history of colonialism”.