00:00:07:01 - 00:00:38:23

June Commanda

When I came out of a residential school, I still understood what they’re saying. But when I tried to say a word, I couldn't say it. I can say it in my mind, but I couldn't... my tongue couldn't do it. Although we were home every summer, like some kids stayed there forever till they were 18. They never came home.

00:00:39:13 - 00:00:40:03

June Commanda

Strangers.

00:00:42:13 - 00:00:53:09

June Commanda

Like there's a lot of Nipissing people. I don't know how much, but many, many that never came back here. But they were born here.

00:00:55:09 - 00:00:59:11

June Commanda

But they belong here. But they never came back.

00:01:00:00 - 00:01:13:06

Marlene Barnes

And one thing that I found when we were in the language committee, and that, is a lot of them are shy to say a word. They're so afraid they're going to say it wrong.

00:01:14:07 - 00:01:37:13

Candace Shaabgiizhik

Personally, because I'm a second language learner. It's like an insecurity that that I'm faced with when speaking with elders. Not having it be my first language and being a fluent speaker. You know, I strive and strive to continue to learn to carry that language on.

00:01:38:02 - 00:01:51:00

Mindy Lariviere

People are afraid to speak it because that's a part of who we are now. It's our job to change that and to maneuver through the trauma is that our people have been through.

00:01:52:11 - 00:02:15:06

Glenna Beaucage

Honoring all those people in the past who fought for us and stood up for us, but they weren't heard because the Treaty came and all the things, all the steamrolling happened to them. I'd say and even try to knock them down on many occasions. The loss of land, the loss of children, the loss of place, the loss of spirit.

00:02:15:14 - 00:02:38:18

Glenna Beaucage

When we speak our language, we're giving voice to the people who fought for us and we're helping them up again. That's how I visualize it. And it's also picking us up at the same time and bringing them with us. That's how it feels. I got goosebumps just saying it, but that's what I envision when we do this work together where we're telling them “You were heard. You were heard and you're still here and we're bringing you with us.”