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No.693256
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Re: Bishop Peers. Rev. Jim Miller.

These are my views and feelings and mine alone on this issue:

The letter I wrote to Bernice Logan I also sent to Bishop Peers, head of the Anglican Church of Canada to read and review. I did not ask him or Bernice Logan for a reply. Bernice Logan sent me a 29 page reply, however I felt he would send a reply. Since he had apologized to the Indians in B.C. I truly felt my letter would be of interest to him. After seeing him in a video on Gladys Cook called, "Search for Healing", he truly didn't impress me with his answers in the video, especially the first part of his answers. This is why I now feel was his reason for not answering my letter. I feel he is not as impartial as he should be. I feel his apology was for political reasons rather than what was truly just for the Indians. The church people have never been sympathetic to the Indian people's needs or else we wouldn't be in this great problem we are now in

Here's another example: Feb.1998 I read a report on a project from Walpole Island called, "In Care of Strangers", by Professor Ed J. Danziger Jr. of Bowling Green State University and the Reverend Jim Miller. For many years a minister on Walpole Island now retired. The project was on residential schools and their impact on students from Walpole Island. My report was more graphic then the Walpole Island project. I sent a copy of my letter to Bernice Logan along with a copy of my report on "In Care of Strangers" to Professor Ed. Danziger Jr. He in turn sent it to Rev. Jim Miller. I recently met Rev. Jim Miller on Walpole Island all he said about my letter and report was, "I liked what you had to say about the movie Where the Sprit Lives. His answer bothered me for weeks I told this to my wife. She met him in church the following Sunday and mentioned my project to him. He immediately changed the subject, which also bothered me. I told her there was something definitely wrong. He doesn't seem to be the caring and impartial person he should be about a very sensitive issue. After leaving Walpole Island I stopped and visited a lady friend I went to Shingwauk with in Wawa, Ont. I was telling her about the Walpole Island project and Rev. Jim Miller's reaction, which seemed like he didn't care or wasn't interested in what I had to say. She then told me a story about Rev. Jim Miller. When her mother died she and her family asked Rev. Miller if they could have an Indian service for her. He quickly told them they wanted a pagan service. They were shocked by his answer so they had a regular church service. I asked her why she didn't tell him they wanted an Indian service, and not a pagan service. She said they didn't think of that.

I have no reason to doubt her story. He confirmed my worst fears. He is not the caring, sensitive, and impartial minister he should have been to the first nations people on

Walpole Island, unless you agree with him. I now know why the Walpole Island project is not *quite* as good as it could have been. Because abused Indians do not open up to a white minister or priest, or the Canadian government for that matter. They are the reason we are still in this *terrible* mess. As soon as I got home from my extended trip, I called Professor Ed Danziger Jr. Ohio and I told him something was burning a hole in my heart. I told him how I felt about Rev. Jim Miller. I'm not writing this to hurt Professor Ed Danziger Jr., in any way, but I'm hoping he will understand my feelings on this very sensitive issue. I have been hurt very deeply, by some of the Anglican church people of Canada at the Shingwauk Indian School Soo. Ont.

Meegwetch,

Donald Sands

Letter to John Bird
By Donald Sands

Dear Sir. John Bird

March 24 1999

In my response in saying I used your words, it was an error on my part in my wording. It was words from your article on the book "Shingwauk Vision" by Professor Jim R. Miller, you quoted Geo. Erasmus of the royal commission, it was his words I used, in my opinion they are great words "quote" How could we. What possibly could have moved us to cause the pain we did. etc. etc..... I met Geo. Erasmus last year in Vancouver B.C. I told him I liked what he said, I had to refresh his memory on his words. I'm sorry on the miss understanding of words, in the future if I do need to quote any of your words, I will consult with you first, I will do my best not to use any of your words, I have plenty of my own words.

When I stated I did more writing it was not to Bernice Logan. She just started my writing, my writings have been on what has bothered me. On people, on articles, on my "Indian residential School" days, on the Churches and the Canadian government.

I intend to keep on writing and sending my letters out for people to read, I "Do Not" want "Closure" on the "Indian Residential School" issues and other related problems. Problems that were caused by the churches

I suspected all along this what they wanted "Closure", your letter confirms that. All the healing workshops, and all the lawsuits will not make my inner problems go away. It seems I will go to see the great "Spirit" with Shingwauk in my heart. I guess all I can ever hope for is that it will get easier and easier and it is getting easier. I do not want "Closure" as many people would like that to happen. It's the same on the "Holocaust" issue, many people are saying it didn't happen. The Jewish people don't want "Closure" by any stretch of the imagination. I feel the same way on the "Indian Residential School" issue. People need to be made aware of what happened, no matter how unpleasant the issue is. I guess people just don't or want to know or believe, on what the Church people did, on behalf of the Churches of Canada.

It's always easy for people to say, lets for get about what happened , as long as this didn't happened to them, it's easy for anyone to say lets for get about the whole mess, and go on with the future, human nature can be so cruel at times.

I still believe there are people out there, who care and are willing to listen to the little people who have problems, in my case and for all my brothers and sisters our problem was so very "Horrrific" and no-one is going to tell me to for-get it.

You're so right on Triangulation it is not healthy for anyone, who doesn't have their whole heartedness into listening to another person's problems on any person. No matter how trivial or how "Devastating" the problem was.

The matter on Bishop Peers and my personal feelings and animosity towards the Bishop now, that is my concern unless any person is willing to listen with impartiality.

After reading his apology for the Anglican Church of Canada, on the Indian Residential School issue, that was my reason for sending him my Bernice Logan letter to read and review. I really thought he would have an understanding of my feelings. This is why I now feel his apology was for political reasons, not what was truly right and just for the Indians, I now feel I would be wasting my time in sending him my latest letter on

him, to him since he didn't acknowledge my first letter, but sometimes in a round about way through a second person

These letters or messages some how find there way to that person.

My letter on the Rev. Jim Miller and my Bernice Logan letter is on Walpole Island for anyone to read, it is of a public issue there.

My once intense dislike for Bernice Logan is gone, we have been exchanging Christmas cards.

Again I repeat I will never stop sending or trying to get my message out, on the Indian Residential School system of Canada as it was. There are still too many Indians or [aboriginals] out there who are still suffering from the devastating effects of the Indian Residential Schools of Canada.

Now that I finally started talking and writing on the Residential School issues. I want to keep on writing irregardless of "Triangulation", the one line you write is almost the same as what Bishop Peers says, that the Indigenous people have to address their problems and present it to us for consideration. Like we caused our own problems. This is what I resent we have to take our devastating "Church" caused problems to the church for consideration. As Bishop Peers says so that appropriate action can be taken. "Okay When". As I see it, it should be the other way around, they should in fact be coming to us, and saying this is what we're going to do for you. Since this doesn't seem likely to happen. There doesn't seem to be any other recourse but court action against the churches and the Canadian government.

I still haven't forgiven the Anglican Church of Canada or the Canadian Government for what was done to me at Shingwauk Indian Residential School. I honestly believe it wouldn't make any difference to the Churches or the Canadian Government, this is my honest opinion, I have to believe they would say who cares if you don't forgive us.

I've changed my mind I won't be sending you any of my letters to read and review. My reasons are because of "Triangulation" your message is very clear to me, since I didn't get the response I was hoping for, I will let it go and move in a different direction, I will heed your suggestion. This will be my last and final letter to you Mr. John Bird. On my personal problems caused by the Anglican Church of Canada and the Canadian Government. I will continue my letter writing for as long as I feel it's necessary.

With that in mind I will end my letter.

Bye Donald H Sands