

## Dr. Duke Redbird Closing Remarks

>> I want to say thank you to everyone that is here today and shared in these teachings and this learning you know? It's been said in the Native community often that, that when the settlers first came, they had the books and, and we had the land, and now we have the books and they have the land. So part of, of the, I guess the occupation of this land, was the victory of paper and print over memory and voice. But with new technologies, with new social networks, and with the 21st century world that we live in now, we are reclaiming, and rediscovering, and we're restoring our memory and our voice, and we're sharing that with the Canadian population, and with the world. And part of that is to understand a very fundamental idea and teaching that is the foundation of the Native perspective, and the universe in which we live. And I tried to encapsulate it in a poem which I will share with you today, and take this, these ideas along with you in the future, and the poem is called The Power of the Land. In every nation, in every clan, the elders, to a person, whether woman or a man, share a common truth, one truth to understand, that the spirit of the people is equal to the power of the land. The mother of us all, the sacred Mother Earth, is constant in her giving, and perpetual in her birth. In meadows and in fields, where weeds and flowers grow, she conceives the summer showers, and spawns the winter snows. In forests and in mountains, she gives the birds that fly, every type of wing, and coaxes the wind to join in harmony when they begin to sing. In brooks and streams, and rivers as they flow, she generates the dreams, and makes the fire's glow. And in every creature, large and small, she buries gems of wisdom in them all. And in every grain of sand, she plants the knowledge of the power of the land. And those that honor her creations, and acknowledge her grand design, are given the templates of the sacred, and the patterns of the divine. And then, with certain knowledge, this to understand, that the spirit of the people is equal to the power of the land. Thank you, [foreign language]  
[Applause]