

## Addressing Misconceptions - Dr. Sherry Johnson & Dr. Nadine Eastman - OSEU #7

How we ended up all where we are at, how some of our initial tribal members ended up in Canada, how some people ended up in Pearl Creek, and just the push from the federal side, how all of that occurred. So that's our real history and where we ended up migrating and being pushed.

And it also, I think if people in, all the students in the state had an understanding, a better understanding, they wouldn't think, first of all, that we get free money, because all of us went to school, and I'm telling you, some non-native students would say, you get money every month from the government. Well, we all wished we got money every month. We wouldn't have been so poor, had we. But it wasn't true, and you couldn't even argue that away, because so many people believed it then, and so many people believe it now, still today, in this year.

And there are a few tribes that have small memberships, and they have big casinos, and their tribal members get money. Well, you know, that's a very few tribes. It's not ours, unfortunately. We're not one of those. And there aren't very many, so then they think, well, all the native people get lots of money from tribes, so they feel like it's unfair, and so then they have these myths that they believe about native youth that are so untrue. There is a lot more poverty in native communities than there are in non-native communities.

If you go up the road towards Cheyenne River, that's the lowest youth community in the whole United States, in the whole United States. If you take every city and every state, we have the most youth in poverty right in our state. And so, for sure, they're not getting money every month from the government. So, I mean, I think there's a lot of misconceptions from that, and we have a couple things that we did.

So, we get from those treaties, and because education was a piece of it, that's where federally funded tribal schools come from, and hardly anyone understands that. You know, even public school administrators have a hard time understanding that. So that would be something that would be good for people to understand. And we get some low-level health from our Indian Health Service, and, you know, that's not always a great thing either. It's kind of like that, sometimes it's like the clinics, the free clinics in the cities.

You know, it's kind of that level of health. So, we got a few things through the treaties, but people need to see what it looks like today and what it brought us. And not all tribes are treaty tribes, you know, so there's those differences right there.