

## Lakota Economics - Stephanie Charging Eagle - OSEU #3

And economics, you know...when people talk about...some of them get a little carried away...and they say, "Well, we can't be Lakotas because we don't live in tipis or have buffaloes anymore." And I'm like, "That's not the concept." The concept is that, economically, we had the buffalo. And that buffalo...we honored the spirit of the buffalo. We took care of it. We only took what we needed, just like the land. But now, we don't have the buffalo, but we still have economics. So today, the buffalo no longer exists as our economy...or the main state of our economy. So what is? For many of us, it's working. To be able to work, you have to acquire skills, education...whatever it takes for that. And so, now the concept of economics...self-sufficiency of every individual so they can help their family...their tiospaye...is still brought forward. The concept is still very much there. We are self-sufficient. But we make ourselves self-sufficient so that we can still help each other. And that is the concept of how you bring forward the concepts, the philosophy, to an ever-changing, dynamic society.