



## Canada erasing native footprints by genocide: E. Corrigan

Interview with Edward Corrigan

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**Press TV** has conducted an interview with Edward Corrigan, human rights activist, Ontario about a Human Rights Watch report showing again Canada's racist and abusive treatment of indigenous women.

The following is an approximate transcript of the interview.

**Press TV:** This concern by Human Rights Watch is well-deserved because the rights of indigenous aboriginals in Canada overall has been trampled on. And of course in this case in point the ones of women and girls there. Why is this a recurring thing in Canada?

**Corrigan:** Well, we have a long terrible history of dealing with our native inhabitants.

Of course, the Europeans invaded North America and to a large extent waged a campaign of genocide against the native inhabitants.

The Americans were much worse than the British... The United States wanted to expand and attacked the natives and seized their land. All we did is essentially destroyed their social and economic structures; rounded them up and put them on reservations. Reservations were usually places where we didn't want them.

Then of course over time it turned out there were resources like oil and stuff that we needed. So we built pipelines and trampled on their rights without any consideration.

In British Columbia there was a notorious serial killer who preyed upon...and basically he killed dozens and dozens of people and buried them on his farm, but because a lot of these women were natives, it wasn't really given the attention properly with the police. And of course nobody really cared about them; the police didn't care about them.

There is a very high rate of native incarceration in our prisons, but the case up in Vancouver was really quite terrible – I think over 30 native women were killed over a number of years and it really took a long time for the police to deal with it and really the ball was dropped - the police didn't respond the way that they should have.

Right now there are some major conflicts with regards to...where the government wants to build pipelines and stuff through native territories and of course that will be very disruptive to the native life and animal life.

Neil Young who is a very prominent Canadian singer and entertainer, he is leading a campaign to support the natives and that the government should honor the treaty rights. They granted them,

but in some cases there still aren't even treaties in place with the native population. So there is a long terrible history.

*Years ago in the 1920s and 1930s a lot of the natives were actually taken away from their parents and put into residential school, basically as a form of cultural genocide, it was to destroy their cultures and bring them up as English speaking Canadians.*

*In the residential schools there were lots of beatings and sexual abuse. In fact 25 percent of children died who were in these residential schools.*

In hindsight it was deemed that this was an effective form of cultural genocide of the Indians, to destroy their culture and not recognize them. The kids were punished if they spoke in their native language and it was a chance to take the native culture away from them and replace it with something else.

So, because of this long term problem, because we destroyed the native's social and cultural base and there was alcoholism and drug problems, even sniffing gasoline; there's a huge problem of chronic unemployment; many, many issues that Canada has been rightfully condemned by the United Nations last year in a report by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International and other groups.

It is an ongoing problem that the government is not really doing enough to resolve.

SC/AB

