

WE SING: A SONG FOR OUR FAMILIES WHO EXPERIENCED RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Mason Mantla

You came strolling into my town
Thinking that I could be beat down
Kicked me while I was at your feet
Kept me drunk so I could stay weak

Now I see what you've done to me
Kept me blind so I cannot find
The will to keep on going through
We are few but we will beat you

We sing for those who have been abused
We sing for those who have been ill used
We sing for those who are still bruised
We sing so they could seek the truth

At night they came we went away
We woke up to find a new day
All we could do was scream and cry
How could we believe all their lies

We were strangers in our own skin
We felt dirty blacker than sin
The pain burns more than scorching coals
How can we live when they took our souls

Now I see what you've done to me
Kept me blind so I cannot find
The will to keep on going through
We are few but we will beat you

We sing for those who have been abused
We sing for those who have been ill used
We sing for those who are still bruised
We sing so they could seek the truth

For the children who had no clue
For the people who are confused
For the parents we never knew
All this for residential school

Mason Mantla is a 19 year old Tłı̄cho citizen. He resides in the community of Behchokö, Northwest Territories with his girlfriend and daughter. He aspires to be an artist and hopes to do work in music and short films. Photography and videography are two forms of expression that he enjoys immensely. Mason has worked for the last three months as a peer mentor at Chief Jimmy Bruneau School as part of a project focused on raising resilience in Tłı̄cho youth. Writing songs is a passion for Mason and music is a medium he uses to tell stories he feels a need to tell. The Residential School poem was written as a song originally as for Mason the music and the lyrics are one. As a 19 year old full of potential for a very bright future, he seeks balance between his hope for the future and his respect for the past.

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