

Robert Houle - Clip 7

Positioning the Self: Identity and Change

...change is a very, very important part of our culture. Changing, forever changing, that is, that is a very important part of our, our way of life. And I think one of the most important things, I think one example of that is, for example, many of us, many of our nations don't have written languages, if any, with the exception perhaps of the Cherokees and the Inuit. We do everything by memory and by the oral tradition. Therefore the storyteller is always the authority and whatever, so it's that kind of, that kind of non-rigidity, it's not authoritative that way, as is the written word. And I think one of the most fundamental things that I learned as a child from my grandparents was to, was because my grandparents tried to signify me from others. And they knew that I was going to school and they said: "Those are book people!" And my grandfather meant the Jews, the Christians, then recently the Moslems, the Islam all of those book, he called them the 'book people', and this is not a racist remark. I hope not, I hope it's not construed. But that was my, that was my, the beginning of positioning myself, I suppose that far back and I think, but going back to, going back to your original question about. Yes it is important that aboriginal people, just as they are going, becoming lawyers, they're becoming doctors, that they go to school and learn the language of authority.

Because only by doing that can they really, really truly live, by trying to make a circle, truly the notion of change as being tradition.

