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First Nations student told to remove 'Got land?' sweatshirt by Sask. school

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CTV Winnipeg: Shirt sparks controversy in Manitoba



A Winnipeg man has been selling t-shirts with the message 'Got land? Thank an Indian' which he says is meant to inform not offend.

CTV Regina: Students angry over t-shirt logo ban



Principal bans t-shirts with controversial logo after students start showing up wearing them.

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CTVNews.ca Staff
Published Wednesday, January 15, 2014 9:04PM EST

A Saskatchewan student says her school asked her to remove a sweatshirt bearing the words "Got land? Thank an Indian," after it sparked complaints.

Tenelle Starr, 13, said that the sweatshirt speaks about First Nations treaties and land rights.

"I like the meaning and it's a true statement," she told CTV Regina.

PHOTOS



Jeff Menard wears a sweatshirt that he designed in Winnipeg, Jan. 15, 2014.



A Saskatchewan student says her school asked her to remove a sweatshirt bearing the words 'Got land? Thank an Indian,' after it sparked complaints.

But not everyone at her school, located in the town of Balcarres, approved of the slogan.

She was initially told to take the sweatshirt off. The school later said she could wear it, but only after meeting with her family and community members.

The designer of the sweatshirt, Winnipeg resident Jeff Menard, said he feels bad that Starr was criticized for wearing his design, but he doesn't shy away from the message it sends.

"Just like it says, 'Got land? Thank an Indian,'" he said. "As anybody who knows their history can recall from their teachers, who was here first? It was the Native people."

Menard said that when he wears his sweatshirt he mostly gets compliments. However, there was an incident last week, where a stranger confronted him over it.

"This guy comes up to me and says, 'We pay for you, you guys get everything for free... we pay our taxes,'" Menard said, adding that he told the stranger that he works for

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"He was willing to fight me over my hoodie," he said.

Menard said he's sold thousands of sweatshirts bearing the slogan, and he's hoping to give one to Neil Young on Thursday at the singer's "Honour the Treaties" concert.

With reports by CTV Winnipeg's Sheila North and CTV Yorkton's Tyler Esquivel

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Elwood Jones @ Roy Berger...Mandela????
Jan. 17, 2014 7:41 PM
[Abuse](#)

Tyto Alba Got Land? Thank the European settlers for making it habitable.
Jan. 17, 2014 7:17 PM
[Abuse](#)

RoyBerger The Canadian Charter of Rights wasn't valid in the school system when I was attending either. Sorry that intellectual debate and rational discussion has failed. I just got off the phone with Mandela. He said, "That leaves sticks and stones."
Jan. 17, 2014 12:45 PM
[Abuse](#)

RoyBerger The Canadian Charter of Rights wasn't valid in the school system when I was attending either. Sorry that intellectual debate and rational discussion has failed. I just got off the phone with Mandela. He said, "That leaves sticks and stones."
Jan. 17, 2014 12:43 PM
[Abuse](#)

Me @ {not so} SmartPlumber - we can call your so called "discussion" offensive if we like this is a free forum so simply saying "no more whining" and belittling our complaints as "imaginary complaints!" is neither discussion or debate. The natives' contribution was far from "minute" during WWII there were well over 3,500 identified aboriginal soldiers and likely more undisclosed aboriginal soldiers in the fight. So your argument does not stand. I respect the work of Veterans but keep in mind aboriginal peoples gave their lives in equal percentages during the war. Finally The aboriginal peoples maintained this land for thousands of years before the arrival of the Europeans. They managed the trade routs they engaged in sustainable agriculture and they used much less exploitative means to live in harmony with nature. So yes I will thank a native for the land they have been protection longer than anyone else.
Jan. 17, 2014 11:49 AM
[Abuse](#)

Native Canadian huh? i'm simply talking about canadian history. you're distorting truth. native people are human beings and are canadian citizens whether you like it or not. they have served this country and continue to serve this country - again, whether you like it or not. at least 3000+ aboriginal soldiers served in WW2 for a country that didn't want them. you can say they were fighting for and against canada.
Jan. 17, 2014 5:21 AM
[Abuse](#)

SmartPlumber @Native Canadian First of all: no more whining about discussion being offensive - I'm not your MP to listen to imaginary complaints! Second of all: the natives' contribution was minute because there were just a few natives in the overall fighting force. So it still stands: You owe it to the WW2 vets not only in Canada but in other countries, too. It's time to start showing it now!
Jan. 17, 2014 12:07 AM
[Abuse](#)

Lee I would wear one here in Ontario! I am part Native :). The not so Native part of me isnt against it either :)
Jan. 16, 2014 7:50 PM
[Abuse](#)

Don AAA BC People do need to realize that First Nations people fought in both

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Doug

Jan. 16, 2014
4:38 PM

People do need to realize that First Nations people fought in both world wars too. But it is equally incumbent on First Nations people and everyone else to realize that if it had not been for the British, each and every person in Canada would be an American now. There is no way that First Nations people could have won the war of 1812 on their own. And I doubt that First Nations people would have enjoyed their lives living under the Stars and Stripes either. I believe that intelligent people of every race and culture in that land know full well that we will either sink or swim as a sovereign nation together. The real shame is that it's the ignorant and the extremists who are doing all the talking.

jeff

Jan. 16, 2014
4:01 PM

I think this shirt is brilliant and it sparks discussion. How many people saw the hoodie, went home and mentioned it to someone else and actually discussed it? Maybe a few were even encouraged to do some research and see if it made sense!

phred

Jan. 16, 2014
3:59 PM

jeff menard send me one XL black, I'll wear it, I am not native.

Sadhistry

Jan. 16, 2014
2:54 PM

If all land claims were settled to the satisfaction of Aboriginal Canadians, there will still be an angst and a sadness because of a loss of an historical way of life that only exists in very few pockets. There is a thread of sadness that will always be present because of this loss. Let's get to work and at the very least get the land claims settled. There are some things from history that cannot be turned back. It's time to look ahead.

David from Edmonton

Jan. 16, 2014
1:51 PM

Good for you Tenelle. Your statement is true and since this is supposed to be a free country you have every right to make it. If anyone is offended by your statement it is probably because the truth sometimes hurts the guilty. By the way, I am not native but I have good friends who are.

Charles

Jan. 16, 2014
12:38 PM

It's disturbing to see free speech and our charter of rights infringed on because people don't "like" what is being said or written. Everyone needs to grow up and get an education and gain some proper perspective about these issues.

John

Jan. 16, 2014
12:09 PM

We cannot escape the fact that imperialism infringed on and took land from First Nations. Part of the problems was a cultural one where First Nations believed in communal ownership while Europeans believed in individual ownership. Please correct me if I am wrong. So First Nations, I understand, were willing to share. So, they were very generous in letting Europeans move in (though it was also forced in many cases). Years later, this has led to the marginalization of First Nations people. However, most European Canadians now were born here and it is also their home, not by choice. Having said that, we need a more equitable situation for First Nations and we need to work out past injustices and find a better way to live together.

girlnorth

Jan. 16, 2014
11:31 AM

People are commenting that too much is being made of something on a sweater. Signage on clothing can say a great deal~ not always good. Some do make a big deal out of nothing. Recently we have seen sports teams being forced to change their names in the name of political correctness. There is a potato chip company in the US that has had to change its packing picture so as not to 'upset' a particular group. What is good for one faction, should be good for another faction. The shirt signage should be banned.

Liberty

Jan. 16, 2014
11:30 AM

I think that sweatshirt says it all....and correctly at that....I also grew up around the Mohawks of Bay of Quinte area and I for one would love to have one of those sweatshirts....it's great, a big ado over nothing! Tell it like it is!

stupid humans

Jan. 16, 2014
11:12 AM

Hey Tenelle, nice sweater!:-) It would seem you have started the peoples talking. Yes this is a "very big wound" here in Canada. Hopefully we can work together to heal it. "Everyone" needs to



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Abuse

forgive. Put aside your hatred and be reasonable.

URU

Jan. 16, 2014
11:12 AM

They have the right to wear what they want, this is country belongs to the FIRST NATION people. They have more rights them anyone of us on this land.

Abuse

AM

Jan. 16, 2014
9:39 AM

Frankly, I am more offended with the young girls who wear clothing with 'juicy' on their butt or have their breasts and bums hanging out of too small clothing. If no one had said anything, this would have been a non-story. Now it is making national news because someone complained. People, stop the nonsense. If this is the biggest thing you have to complain about in your life, consider yourself very,very lucky. First world problems here.

Abuse

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