



Looking Backwards and Forwards

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Senator


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Keynote address to the
Inclusion Works '13






My story: from Pauper to Pharmaceutical Priestess to Parliamentarian


- Despite the odds (the obstacles):
 - being ashamed of being Indian
 - being picked on as a Chinese girl
 - moving from small town to small town
 - in rural SK and AB
 - being poor, being shy
 - mother died when I was in gr 5.
 - father died when I was in gr 12.
- 



● Despite being undervalued as a Prof
unbelievable harassment

I became a Full Prof, an Assoc Dean
and a Senator





I'm Looking at my Past You're Looking to the Future

- 1963 -2013

- No Indians on campus

- Overt sexism, racism

- Near retirement

- 2013 – 2059

- Many Aboriginals on campus

- Subtle sexism, racism

- 1st real job





The Brown Baby Boom


vs

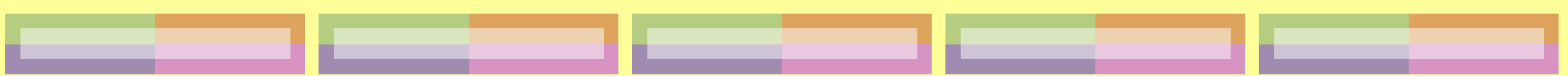
The Greying, Aging Baby Boomers





Some Factors relevant to Success

- Education
 - Finding a cause-purpose (let it find you!)
 - Working hard
 - Finding allies, supporters
 - Never giving up - persevere
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Dare to be yourself

- be proud of who you are
- be a troublemaker – agent of change
- be a strident feminist
- question the rules
- be feisty

Believe in Serendipity – unexpected good!





Finding my Brand – my Label

- The Go-To Person for equity issues
- 




My Legacy


- Helping students deal with unfair rules, unfair assessment, harassment, etc






My Rewards

- The unexpected thank you's
 - Knowing I've made a positive difference in someone's life.
- 




Hitting Rock Bottom lead to Finding Inner Power

- Mid-1990's, Walking home – crying
 - My mother's words
- 



2005 - Summoned to the Senate

- Why me?
 - Because I'm an Aboriginal female.
 - Because I had a public profile.
 - Because I did public work that I was told not to do! Speaking about equity issues, discrimination, WIS, Aboriginals.
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● This above all, to thine own self be true.

Visiting Chief Theresa Spence
December 2012

Idle No More Rally,
January 2013

