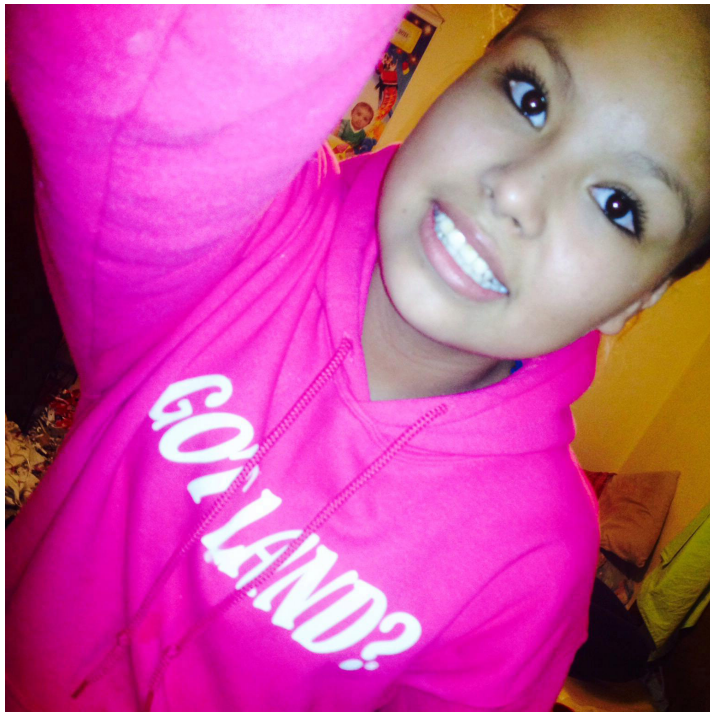


Sweatshirt slogans spark controversy at Saskatchewan school

BY CANADIAN PRESS JANUARY 16, 2014

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Tenelle Starr, 13, Grade 8 student in Balcarres, and a member of the nearby Star Blanket First Nation, was told not to wear a sweatshirt in school that has the words "Got Land? Thank an Indian" on it, although officials have since relented.

Photograph by: Facebook, Facebook

BALCARRES — 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.

But not everyone at the school in Balcarres, Sask., approved of the slogan and initially school officials told her 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, Jeff Menard of Winnipeg, said he feels bad that Tenelle was criticized for wearing his design, but he doesn't shy away from the message it sends.

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He said Canada's history is undeniable; native people were here first.

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 Canada Post and pays taxes as well.

"He was willing to fight me over my hoodie."

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.

Tenelle also refused to back down from her support of the slogan.

"I like the meaning and it's a true statement," she said.

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Thanking a native for land places them at a higher vantage point. I do not feel indebted to any person strictly bec
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It is 100% racism, if the roles were reversed there would be nothing but whining and complaining about it
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Alex I'd fight for my land too. Do you want contaminated water? Go ahead give it away then!
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Alex Laverick · ★ Top Commenter · Douglas College

What proof do the natives have that Caucasians from Europe and Russia weren't here first? The oldest remains in North America are Caucasian/Eurasian not Eastern Siberian. Nobody owns the land. The planet is ours collectively. I'd fight for what I have. Not give it away.
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Historically it says that Native people were living on the land before settlers arrived then the Canadiar cannot deny history its in the textbooks. I am going to wear my hoodie proudly with a smile.

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Wanda Peekeekoot · SUNTEP

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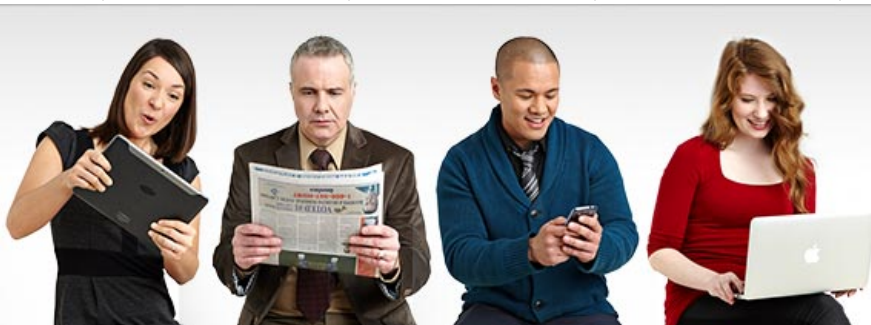
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