

The Strathmore High School production of New Blood has been powerful medicine for so many people. It is very rare that a drama and dance production at any level has the power to heal so many. Whether it was in Strathmore, Drumheller, Lethbridge, Calgary or on the Siksika reserve, the reaction to New Blood was the same. So many people who saw the production commented on its healing power. High praise, higher value.

The story that is New Blood needs to be told throughout Canada. It is specifically about the strength of so many Native people who experienced the destructiveness of the residential schools and who rose above it, who healed and whose spirit came out stronger. Universally, it is about the spirit of Canadians who refuse to be daunted by negative or challenging circumstance. It is about being strong, proud, and free.

Audience members who are connected to residential schools have been healed in a way no conference, in-service or history lesson could ever achieve. The story is about one man's journey; in a larger sense, it is about everyman's journey of healing.

Audience members like myself who have no personal connection to residential schools received a powerful education about the struggles of those who were impacted directly and indirectly and more importantly, we were inspired by the spirit of those who rose above their struggles to become leaders and role models.

New Blood is a beautiful, lyrical experience that heals, and inspires and educates and motivates in ways no other form can. It is an experience all Canadians should have. It inspires all who experience it.

Sincerely,

Gary Reagan,  
Principal