

pikiskwe-speak

An Art & Film Presentation; An Invitation to Conversation

Presented by: **Beth Wishart MacKenzie**

This art and film presentation will involve the display of Lana Whiskeyjack's mixed-media sculpture *Losing My Talk* and a screening of the documentary short *Lana Gets Her Talk* (2017/37 minutes). The presentation will be followed by a conversation with conference participants.

Lana Gets Her Talk is a cinematic observation of Lana as she works to complete the mixed-media sculpture of a tortured face, the face of her uncle who once attended Blue Quills Indian Residential School. Lana calls the sculpture *Losing My Talk* and she uses it as a teaching piece. As the film unfolds, Lana tells us a personal story, but she also speaks of ceremony and of Indigenous knowledge as essential to her healing as the child of a survivor of IRS.

This brief study of Lana and her work is a creative medium through which viewers can come to some understanding of the trauma experienced by Canada's Indigenous people in the IRS system, of its enduring effects on the children of survivors, and of one woman's journey to recover what was lost: dignity, identity, and voice. A story of resilience, Lana's journey speaks of the power of Indigenous "ways of being" in our time.