**A004C004\_250318D1\_CANON\_02.mp4**

[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** Into that classroom because those relationships are vital.

[00:00:03] **Speaker 2** And he brought that up in his speech. And he also brought up the horrific era of the boarding school era and how language was lost. But now we're in an era of language revitalization. Tell me what that means to you and what does that mean for different tribes and being able to build community.

[00:00:21] **Speaker 1** language. Absolutely. You know, our language is part of who we are. It's intertwined within our culture and our identities. So, going back to education, this is one way that the state, you know, can help us revitalize our languages by allowing our students to receive credit, by having accredited, I guess, speakers coming in as those teachers, qualified teachers. But ultimately, revitalizing the language is an individual responsibility as Native people. We need to not only work on that learning ourselves, but get that support within our communities, within our tribes, and within the state's legislation. So, greatly appreciate his work.

[00:01:14] **Speaker 2** He also spoke about MMIW, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and also children, which was also brought up. Where do you think there can be more attention to this crucial and dangerous epidemic that's happening in the Native community, not just here in Wisconsin, but on the national level as well? Absolutely.

[00:01:34] **Speaker 1** This has to be a priority. I appreciate that Wisconsin has a task force established for MMIWR, but it has to be a national effort. So many of our relatives. struggling with this. I mean, it hits home in every community, and if we can't become a priority based on just our, you know, small population or... I guess we can't stand to be. status or, you know, have a percentage associated, every person matters. However, there are so many disproportionate numbers to our missing and murdered indigenous relatives and that task force needs to be prioritized with funding. We need to get news networks that are able to cover this and willing to cover that and just have communities because social media makes so much of our voice be heard. But we need everybody on board for that to end.

[00:02:38] **Speaker 2** And lastly, I want to ask you about the environment, especially with the new presidential administration. The environment is at greater concern probably now more than ever. And caring for the environment in Indigenous practices is something that's to the heart of the Native community. What would you want the state to know about preserving the environment and having that be central in kind of looking at policies, as they talked about, with collaboration moving forward.

[00:03:08] **Speaker 1** Absolutely. You know, as Ho-Chunk people, we consider ourselves stewards of the land, and we recognize that nature in and of itself has rights and may not have a voice. And so it is our duty and our job to advocate on that behalf of our waters and our lands and all of those beings and relatives. So I think knowing that...