



Curriculum Links
The Sharing Circle, Season 14, Episode 9:
Toxic Homes

Suggested Grade Levels:

Grades 7 – 12

Curriculum Themes:

- Environment
- Government practices
- Health
- Housing
- Public Health
- Role Model

Summary of Episode:

Raven Thundersky and her family grew up in the community of Poplar River. Since the late 1980's, Raven has lost her mother, three sisters, and a brother to Asbestosis and Mesothelioma. She has also been diagnosed with scarring of the lungs due to Zonolite exposure. Living with the possibility of cancer, she has become an advocate on having the issue recognized by all levels of government. All along the way, she remains true to the spirit that drives her to fight.

Vocabulary:

- Aboriginal
- Asbestos
- Asbestosis
- Awareness
- Canada
- Canadian Home Insulation Program
- Cancer
- Cancer Care
- Canadian Government
- Chief Roseau River
- Chuck Strahl
- Clean Water
- Dangerous
- Deadly
- Devalued
- Difficult to Detect
- Donate
- Dr. Andrew Maksymiuk
- Exposure
- Federal Government
- First Nations Reserves
- Grants
- Health Canada
- High Standard of Living
- Insulation
- Irritated
- Killed
- Lining Lungs
- Lining of Stomach
- Living Conditions
- Logging
- Media
- Mesothelioma
- Military
- Military kept safe
- Minister of Agriculture
- Misdiagnosed
- Mould
- Multicultural
- 1960 – 1980
- \$10,000 - \$20,000
- Ownership
- Pat Martin
- Poison
- Promote
- Protect
- Raven Family Story
- Raven Thundersky
- Remove
- Subsidize
- Terry Nelson
- Third World
- Threat
- Tremolite
- Uffee Foam
- Wealth
- Zonolite

Suggested Activities:

- Learn about Raven Thundersky's story and invite her in to speak.
- Learn about the risks of asbestos.
- Learn about Tremolite and Zonolite.
- Learn about Mesothelioma Cancer.
- Interview various people who are aware of Zonolite and see how their concerns were dealt with.
- What are other types of insulations being used, and why are they safer?
- Why do you think people on reserves were treated differently than the military and government employees?

Suggested Activities (Continued):

- Think about and research how much money goes into cancer care, and how much they need to get rid of the Zonolite. Which costs more?
- Look up various cases that involve the law and Zonolite. Where are they today with this issue?
- What are traditional forms of insulating? How are they environmentally friendly?
- How do we find out what is safe and not safe? Do we rely on media?
- Why are we not promoting or making people aware of the production of dangerous items?

Additional Resources (online):

- Health Canada
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/iyh-vsv/environ/asbestos-amiante_e.html
- Mesothelioma
[www.mesothelioma-information-and-hope.com/What is Asbestos Cancer .html](http://www.mesothelioma-information-and-hope.com/What_is_Asbestos_Cancer_.html)
- Raven Thundersky
www.cbc.ca/national/news/deadly_dust/deadlydust2.html
www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2004/10/29/zonolite_manitoba041029.html
- Tremolite
www.scn.org/~bh162/asbestos2.html
- Zonolite
www.cbc.ca/canada/manitoba/story/2006/10/06/wcb-wrgrace.html
www.billblaikie.ca/node/733