

Native enough

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What does it mean to be Native enough?
I do not “self-identify”
I am identified by my family line, my kookum, a bird
I am both sides, but my skin is of my father
So,
I am not enough to walk into ceremony without disgusted looks
But not little enough to be untouched by residential school
Not little enough to be untouched by intergenerational trauma
Fentanyl
Not little enough to be untouched by smudge
Sweat
Ceremony
But not native enough to not be questioned
Not enough to speak my ancestral tongue
I don’t fit the settler’s stereotype
But I am still not enough for my own people