

# STRENGTH OF THE SASH



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**Conor Kerr**  
Writer

**Ezra Clayton Daniels**  
Storyboards

**Christian Ryan**  
Inks & Focus group short

**Stephen Gladue**  
Front cover

**Chloe Boudrea**  
Lead colourist

**Lourdes Ubidia**  
Assistant colourist

**Sean Muir**  
Focus group testing & editor

**Brandon Mitchell**  
Interior covers

**Indigenous Story Studio**  
(formerly **Healthy Aboriginal Network**)  
Publisher

The content in this graphic novel may stir up unpleasant feelings or thoughts, particularly if you or someone you know has experienced a suicide attempt or if someone close to you has died by suicide. Please consider reading it with a family member or friend.

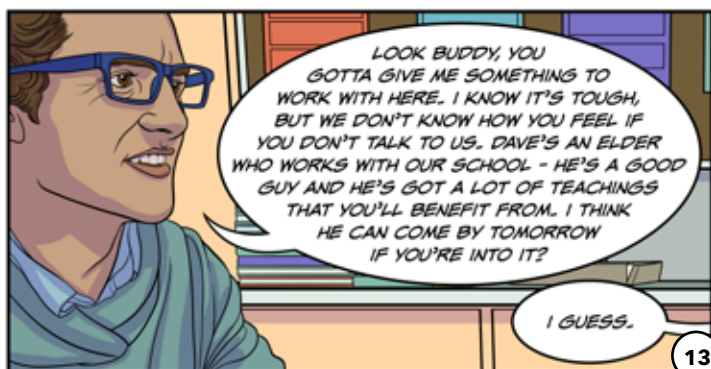
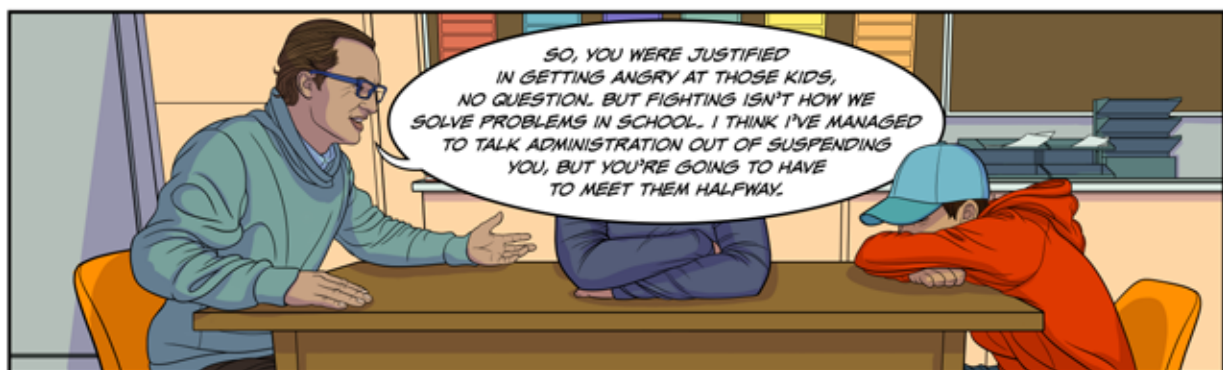
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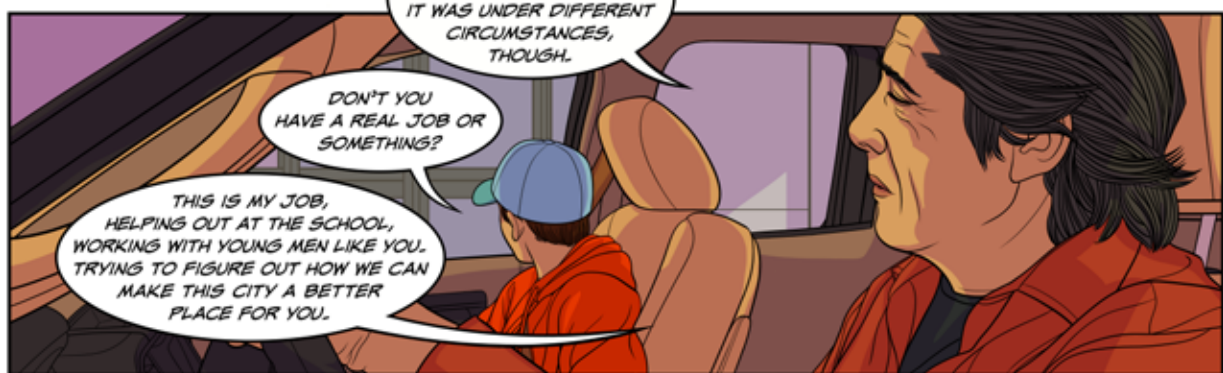
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WALK WITH ME, DANIEL.



YOU KNOW, EVERY FOOTSTEP THAT YOU TAKE, ONE OF YOUR ANCESTORS HAS STEPPED IN THE SAME PLACE.



RIGHT NOW YOU MAY NOT FEEL CONNECTED, BUT EVERY LEAF, EVERY TREE, EVERY RIVER AND BLADE OF GRASS KNOWS YOU, AND THEY KNOW YOUR CONNECTION TO THIS LAND. THEY ARE YOUR RELATIONS AS MUCH AS ANYONE ELSE IS.

HEALING FROM OUR TRAUMAS AND WHAT WE'VE GONE THROUGH TAKES TIME. THERE ISN'T AN EASY ANSWER. THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS. BUT EVERY JOURNEY STARTS WITH A STEP, AND I'LL WALK BESIDE YOU IF YOU WANT ME TO.



I JUST WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE.

DO YOU REALLY WANT THAT?

I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT.



NOT MANY PEOPLE YOUR AGE DO, LET ALONE PEOPLE WHO'VE GONE THROUGH WHAT YOU'VE GONE THROUGH. IF YOU COULD DO ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I GUESS I WOULD BE IN A BAND, OR JIGGING, YOU KNOW, LIKE SOME OF THOSE GUYS YOU SEE IN THE MUSIC VIDEOS. MAYBE TO ELECTRONIC MUSIC, THOUGH; NOT THE FIDDLE.

HEY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE FIDDLE?!



OUR BLOOD RUNS THROUGH THIS LAND AND THE ROOTS OF THE TREES. THEY WANT TO HELP HEAL YOU AS MUCH AS I DO, BUT YOU NEED TO RESPECT THE LAND, OUR LAND, KITASKINAW, ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE.

IT'S LIKE THAT YOUNG WARRIORS PROGRAM YOU'VE BEEN ATTENDING.



YOUR GROUP FOCUSES ON SPIRITUAL HEALTH...



EMOTIONAL HEALTH...



PHYSICAL HEALTH...



AND MENTAL HEALTH. MY KOOKUM TAUGHT ME A LONG TIME AGO THAT YOU NEED TO KEEP THE FOUR IN BALANCE.

