

**Wilma:**

That's an issue question like "what's the meaning of life?" I think everybody has a different ways of dealing with it. I have tried to deal with issue of racism by public education. I've spent a lot of time talking with people that a lot of people who work on issues of racism don't talk with. I've talked with Rotary clubs. I've talked with people in chamber of commerce groups. I've worked with church leaders. I have not just talked with our own people about issues of racism, but I've done a lot of public education about people. And rather than polarizing people by dividing them into people that I think are racists and people that I think are not, what I've tried to do is as much education about our people as I could, under the belief — which may be naive, I don't know, some days I think it is naive — with better understanding, more communication and more education we can start to break away some of the racism. If I really thought that you couldn't educate people or talk with people, and communicate with people, and work with people and get to know people to try to break down issues of racism, I don't even think I would get out of bed every morning. I mean I have to believe that within all of us there's racism and I think that it goes both ways. I don't think that you can have Native people or any other people being racist against another group and work against racism. When you say you want to eliminate racism, that means against anybody. That means that you eliminate racism all the way around, not "we're not going to be racist against this group, but we are going to be racist against that group." So I guess my way of thinking about it is to continue to work together and educate one another and have more collaborations and more and more dialogue, discussion and all that. Others think that the way to do that is to go to court, take things to the United Nations, human rights office, and we do all that too. I think all of that is necessary as well, but I think education is a big part of it.