Forsaken
Teddy Francis

What is left of the Red Man whom we came to convert?
In a dark womb/striped and robbed of my culture/first it was residential school where another lost her potential/
Forsaken

There’s no mistaken/his land was taken
Teepees to a six by nine cell/pray to the Creator they say we’re going to hell/
Forsaken

In a dark womb/pouring out my heart to a stranger I didn’t know/it’s exhaustion.
Indian to Indigenous/what about my late Father’s pain/taken in the sixty scoop/I remember a verse from a song he showed me/it’s called logical
“Everything was magical wonderful then they took me away taught me to be logical”/my Father said it reminded him of that time/
Forsaken

In a dark womb/I heard echoes of Justin Trudeau say they foster rehabilitation and reintegration yet all I see is INCARCERATION/why?
Forsaken

In a dark womb/I did ten years: two thirds past my time/finish my correctional plan and accomplish my high school diploma
So where’s the reintegration? Am I forsaken?

Fortification/please see my probity, dark reality, prudential.
I’ll step up and live for my Father and Mother potential
Proved First Nation/From Heart Lake first nation… all my relations.