



**Centre for Indigenous Theatre  
Bannock Republic Synopsis**

Bannock Republic is a touching and hilarious dramatic comedy by acclaimed Cree playwright, Kenneth T. Williams. Set against the backdrop of an abandoned Residential School, a newly elected Chief, Isaac Thunderchild, struggles with the mess left behind by his predecessors while still trying to overcome the death of his late wife, Zia. Determined to do something about the Residential school, and refusing to accept any government handouts, Isaac feels he has finally figured out what to do with the old colonial relic when he has the idea to turn it into a memorial. But as fate will have it, Isaac soon finds his plans turned upside down when a car crash leads to him being reunited with his cousin Jacob Thunderchild, a recovering alcoholic and down-on-his-luck journalist desperate to discover the next great story. This accident also introduces Isaac to Destiny Charles, a designated third-party manager whose mission is to restore order and fiscal responsibility to the newly discovered Reservation's financial mismanagement. If third-party management wasn't bad enough, Destiny's likeness to Isaac's late wife also forces him to come to terms with what happened to Zia or risk tarnishing her legacy altogether. With Jacob and Destiny's arrival, Isaac soon finds his plans for the residential school are threatened, and if he wishes to proceed with turning the school into a memorial, he will have to convince more than just the council that his idea is worth salvaging. From battered warzones to the fictional reservation of Thunder Cree First Nation, Isaac's story is one of love, loss and forgiveness; where the past feels just as present as the future. Bannock Republic's themes of confronting the scars of our colonial past and the personal scars we inflict on ourselves remain as relevant and vital as they did when the play was first written. With Bannock Republic, Kenneth T. William points us in a direction where healing is possible through laughter.