

#10 TOP IA STORY OF 2017: Drowning in White privilege

By *Natalie Cromb*

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2017 was a year of highs and lows for our First Nations citizens, so it is appropriate for Indigenous affairs editor Natalie Cromb to kick off our countdown of the top stories of 2017, with this piercing July story attracting over 11,000 unique views.

IA's 10TH MOST POPULAR STORY OF 2017

Drowning in White privilege

The First Nations community is both reeling and in mourning; Indigenous affairs editor [Natalie Cromb](#) reflects on the gut-wrenching despair.

I AM DROWNING.

I am drowning under the weight, the exhaustingly heavy weight of the constant and

brutal hits that keep coming. I find myself both breathing deeply in anger and suffocating all at once. The feeling is difficult to enunciate, because it's all internalised as I continue to rise each morning and smile at my daughter, and maintain the façade that the world is good so I can shelter her as long as possible and give her the childhood she deserves, while inside I am crying and it is guttural as I think about [Elijah's](#) family and the fact that not only can they no longer smile at him — they can't even find comfort or closure in justice being served.

I feel rage so powerful and overwhelming I feel like I am burning up, but I am not showing it as I continue to go to work and advise clients on the law, as I internally fester at how abysmal the law is when it fails our community as it has.

I feel hopeless soul crushing sadness as I think of a [musical genius](#) gone too soon as a result of a failure of the medical system in addressing preventable illness, which hits all too close to home as we contemplate our grandmother – the strongest and staunchest woman I know – crippled with kidney disease and the health care system so pathetically hopeless she has had to move two hours away from all of her family for treatment that could easily be provided in her home town where she has a support system, all because of funding.

Our hearts go out to family, friends, fans, to the nation, and to the world. [?][?]

My piece in
[@independentaus](#)
explains why we want
sovereignty and treaty,
and how we can
achieve and implement
both.
[https://t.co/WvNI0mZ8
R8](https://t.co/WvNI0mZ8R8)

— Natalie Cromb
(@NatalieCromb) [May
26, 2017](#)