

Living Into Right Relations – September 2022

Hello,

I send this in the shadow of the great and tragic loss of lives in the James Smith Cree Nation and in Weldon, Saskatchewan this past week. We hold the communities and families in our hearts. On Friday, Sept. 9 there is an opportunity to come together at a [Sacred Fire for James Smith Cree Nation](#) at 7 p.m. at Victoria Park (Willow River Park) Kitchener. This loss will be much on our minds I suspect as we draw close to the second National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

I encourage us all to take time to use the day as intended, as a day of memorial and reflection about the truths we need to know and accept and the ongoing responsibility to make reparations. To get started, you might take [60 seconds](#) to listen to Murray Sinclair remind us why a day such as this is important.

There are many events for the day and many educational opportunities for children, students and families in the days and weeks prior. Events you can participate in are listed in section 1. I've tried to include online and in-person events in various locations along the Grand River Watershed. For ongoing thought, the Reads, News and Views section includes a variety of perspectives on some reconciliation topics, from Indigenous and some non-Indigenous writers.


As the poet said, we make the path by walking it,

Nancy (nancydykstra@gmail.com).

1. Events for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

- a. **Sept. 12 - 29**, [Remember the Children](#), for schools, teachers and students Gr 1-12, organized by the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#).
- b. **Starting Sept 22** educational programming [Woodland Cultural Centre](#).
- c. **Sept 14-30** [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 2022](#) UW Office of Indigenous Relations: numerous events throughout the month and resources/courses to extend our knowledge. LOTS to participate in here!
- d. **Sept. 25-30**, Week of reflective and learning opportunities through the [United Church of Canada](#), including worship ideas and online events.
- e. **Sept. 26-30**, [Beyond the Orange Shirt Story - Niagara Falls](#) series of events in Niagara Falls in the week leading up to Sept 30. Lots to get involved with.
- f. **Sept 30, 10 a.m.** [Every Child Matters Walk](#) Kitchener, Healing of the 7 Generations. Meet at 300 Frederick St and walk to Victoria Park Clock Tower.
- g. **Sept. 30**, [Honouring Our Children Pow Wow](#), Mohawk Village Memorial Park. 184 Mohawk Street, Brantford. Starts at 12 p.m. Sept 30. This event is to commemorate and honour Residential School Survivors. Please wear orange.
- h. **Oct. 1, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.** [Niagara Regional Native Centre 8th Annual Traditional Pow Wow](#) Meridian Centre, St Catharines.

2. Land Back

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - read their Facebook posts. Current focus: future of the site of the former Charles St Terminal.
 - i.  [Recollections and Imaginings](#) - of the Charles St Terminal. A 31-minute documentary, launched Sept 1.
 - ii. Email campaign - [Create an Indigenous community hub at Charles Street Terminal](#).
- b. [1492 Land Back Lane](#) Supportive actions
 - i. **Friday Lunches for 1492 LandBack Lane. Our next delivery date: Sept 23.** Cash donations can be made through [Parkminster United Church](#). Please identify your donation as 1492 LandBack Lane. For more info or to lend a hand, contact nancydykstra@gmail.com. Thank you!
 - ii. Support their [legal defense fund](#).

3. Supporting Indigenous-led Enterprises

Buy your orange T-shirts [here](#) from [Healing of the Seven Generations](#) in Kitchener or a local Indigenous supplier in your area.

4. Learning at home and events

- a. **Sept. 9-11** - [Celebration of Nations](#) This is new to me and looks amazing! A full weekend celebrating Indigenous arts in the Niagara Region.
- b. **Aug 16-Dec. 2** [we are made of stardust](#) McMaster Museum of Art: artworks that visually express how Indigenous peoples make sense of their place in the universe through relating to and reflecting on the sun, the moon, the stars, and all celestial beings in the night sky. Features over 20 Indigenous artists.
- c. **Sept. 10**, All Nations Grand River Water Walk, Kitchener [2 Events, 2 locations](#) - 8 a.m. Water Ceremony and 10 a.m. event and clean up with Mary Anne Caibaioisai.
- d. **Sept. 10, 2 p.m.** [Indigenous Art 2022 Opening Reception](#) Woodland Cultural Centre, 184 Mohawk St., Brantford.
- e. **Sept. 10**, [Full Moon Ceremony](#), Crow Shield Lodge.
- f. **Sept. 11, 8 a.m.**, All Nations Grand River Water Walk at Crane Park, Guelph [Water Ceremony](#) to begin Grandparents Day.
- g. **Three Exhibitions of Indigenous Art at UW and WLU this fall:**
 - i. **Sept. 6 - Dec. 6**, [Christi Belcourt: Take Only What You Need](#) at the [Robert Langen Art Gallery](#) at WLU. Opening reception, Sept, 28, 7-9 p.m.
 - ii. **Sept. 6 - Dec. 16**, [Unmasking, Breathing, Moving Forward](#), Conrad Grebel College. Grebel Gallery. 17 Black, Indigenous, and racialized artists responding to their experiences during COVID-19. Opening reception Sept. 21, 7 p.m., Register [here](#).

- iii. **Sept. 9- Dec. 18** Niyonkwariho:tens – Connections, Relationships, Art on the Wall at the Kanata Centre, Martin Luther University College (MLUC) WLU. Opening Celebration: September 14, 2022, 5 p.m. Courtyard, MLUC.
- h. **Sept. 14, 21, 28, 29 6-7:30 p.m.** Mohawk Institute Virtual tours. Note change of day and time. Click the date for a link to tickets: [Sept 14](#), [Sept 21](#), [Sept 28](#), [Sept 29](#).
- i. **Sept. 23-Oct. 16** Ontario Culture Days [events with Indigenous artists](#) including events in [Guelph](#), [Kitchener](#), [Cambridge](#), [Hamilton](#). Thank you Bev McNabb.
- j. **Sept. 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.** [Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre annual Pow Wow](#), Waterloo Park, Bandshell Green. Free.
- k. Sept. 28, noon, [Nations Uniting](#) Grandmothers Tea - hosted by Grace Anglican Church in Brantford.
- l. **Oct. 5, 2&3 p.m.** [The Celestial Bear: The Six Nations Night Sky](#) Gathering Place by the Grand, 2593 Chiefswood Road, Ohsweken.
- m. **Extended to Oct 16** [From Her Perspective: Portraits by Canadian Women Artists](#) KWAG, Kitchener.
- n. **Oct. 18, 10-11a.m.** [The Mush Hole](#) Sanderson Centre, Brantford. A must-see!
- o. **Other events:** [Chiefswood Park](#) and via [Eventbrite](#).

5. Reconciliation - building relationships

- [Collaboration between Indigenous musicians and Sultans of String](#).
- [Walking the Path of Peace Together in Eastern Ontario](#) a story of a United Church congregation and local Indigenous people developing relationship and creating a space together.

6. Good Reads, News and Views

- a. **Reads on Reconciliation** - note, iii. and iv. are available soon.
 - i. [Standoff : Why Reconciliation Fails Indigenous People and How to Fix It](#) Dr. Bruce McIvor, a member of the Manitoba Métis Federation is recognized as one of Canada's leading lawyers in Indigenous law. A discussion on some of the book's contents can be accessed [here](#).
 - ii. [Is Reconciliation Dead? Why we need to stay the course on reconciliation](#) Blog, Indigenous Corporate Training.
 - iii. [Valley of the Birdtail](#) An Indian Reserve, a White Town, and the Road to Reconciliation by [Andrew Stobo Sniderman](#) and [Douglas Sanderson](#).
 - iv. [Namwayut: We Are All One: A Pathway to Reconciliation \(available Sept 13\)](#) by Chief Robert Joseph. Listen to him speak briefly about his life [here](#).
- b. **News**
 - i. [Mush Hole research reveals 97 students died during attendance](#) Two Row Times.
 - ii. [The Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne Elected 44th Moderator of The United Church of Canada](#), CBC [article](#), See the video of her installation [here](#).

c. Views

- i. Sandi Boucher - [52 Steps to Reconciliation](#)- here's one example: [Step 24 Privilege](#).
- ii. [The Survivors' Flag](#) National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. A "virtual walking tour" of the flag. Thank you, Jan Ross.
- iii. [Must-see film winners from the Montreal 2022 First Peoples Festival](#) Muskrat Magazine.
- iv. [Okpik: Little Village in the Arctic](#) documentary on CBC Gem, (44 mins). The film follows Inuit/Gwich'in hunter gatherer Kylik Kisoun, as he discovers the lost art of building traditional Inuvialuit sod houses in Inuvik, N.W.T. Thanks, Henriette Thompson.