

## Living Into Right Relations – February 2023

Hello,

It started out looking like a quiet month, but now there are a wide variety of things going on and issues to pay attention to - learning circles and a book study, a concert and an art exhibit, a water ceremony, webinars, winter walks and more.

Some events and opportunities are easily approachable. Others require more intention and effort. For example, the work of Land Back - Indigenous efforts to reclaim geographic, political and cultural space - is long-term, complex and challenging. Just because settlers may not be paying attention doesn't mean the situation on the ground is not evolving. It behooves us to pay attention and watch for openings when allyship and connection may be most needed. Taking a riff off of a popular saying, "Reconciliation is not a spectator sport". The journey requires attentiveness and commitment.

Thank you for your efforts on your journey. May you walk in good company,

Nancy ([nancydykstra@gmail.com](mailto:nancydykstra@gmail.com))

1. **Walking Together: Online Book Study - Feb. 15 - March 29** Please join the MCEC Truth and Reconciliation Working Group in a four-part book study. *Walking Together: Intercultural Stories of Love and Acceptance* invites the church to grapple with questions of racism and Christian supremacy. We will meet online every other Wednesday, 7-9 p.m. The authors, Edith and Neill von Gunten will join us for the first week, Feb.15. For details, registration and where to buy the book click the link. Thanks, Ron Flaming.

### 2. Land Back

- a. **O:se Kenhionhata:tie** - read their Facebook posts.
  - i. [Discussion about Statue of Queen Victoria](#)
- b. **1492 Land Back Lane** Supportive actions -
  - i. **Friday Lunches for 1492 LandBack Lane. Our next delivery date: March 3.** 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 me at [nancydykstra@gmail.com](mailto:nancydykstra@gmail.com). Thank you!
  - ii. Support their [legal defense fund](#).

### 3. Learning at home and connecting in person:

- a. [Woodland Cultural Centre - Indigenous Museum](#) New hours: Mon.-Fri. 9-4, Sat. 10-5. Sun. closed. 184 Mohawk St Brantford.
- b. **Chiefswood Park** at 1037 Hwy 54 Ohsweken has a variety of outdoor events for adults and children. Check out the calendar at [Upcoming Events-Chiefswood Park](#).
- c. [Nations Uniting](#) leads a Sharing Circle each month for people who have questions related to living into a better understanding and right relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people along the Grand. They also host a monthly social event called Grandmothers' Tea. Dates are not yet set for February. To find out more or be part of their mailing list go to their website and look for calendar updates or contact Rhonda Johns at [nations.uniting@gmail.com](mailto:nations.uniting@gmail.com).
- d. **Feb 8, 15, 12-1 p.m.** Lunch and Learn with Six Nations Polytechnic. Click for your preferred date/location: [Feb 8 in Ohsweken](#). [Feb 15 in Brantford](#). Bring your lunch.
- e. **Feb. 8, March 1, 8, 2:30-4 p.m.** [13 Moons Learning Circle](#) Series with Myeengun Henry, covering teachings from each of the thirteen months in the lunar calendar. Location: Indigenous Gathering Space, LHI 3701 UW. Check the link for other dates.
- f. **Every Wed evening Feb 8, 15, 22, Mar. 1** Crow Shield Lodge Men's Sharing Circle led by Scott Norton at [McDougall Cottage](#), Cambridge. This is a safe space for sharing, learning and healing together for all nations 16 years and older. Details and registration [here](#).
- g. **Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.** [Jonathan Maracle Concert](#). Indigenous musician and storyteller, sharing his journey reconciling his Mohawk heritage and his Christian faith. Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, 211 Stonehenge Dr., Ancaster. Reserve a spot through the link. Donations accepted at the door.
- h. **Feb. 14** 11th annual [Have a Heart Day | First Nations Caring Society](#). Ideas for teachers, families, and at this link, for [churches](#).
- i. **Feb. 15, 6-7:30 p.m.** [Traditional Hodinohshoni Games](#). Virtual workshop from the Woodland Cultural Centre. First time it's available to the public. Click link for tickets.
- j. **Feb. 18, 8 a.m.** Next [All Nations Grand River Water Walk](#) Water Ceremony, 650 Otterbein Rd. Kitchener.
- k. **Feb 17 DEADLINE EXTENDED** [Imagine a Canada](#) The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) is inviting youth across Canada to Imagine a Canada through the lens of Reconciliation. 2 streams: Arts and Essay; and community projects. For families, classes from K-12. Could be a really wonderful Sunday School or youth group program. See link for ideas and application details. For further details email [imagineacanada@umanitoba.ca](mailto:imagineacanada@umanitoba.ca). Thanks, Henriette Thompson.
- l. **Feb. 18 - April 15** New exhibit [By Design: Fashionable Inspiration](#). Woodland Cultural Centre. The exhibition celebrates the distinctive vision of six Indigenous artists and designers that explore the relationships between traditional form and contemporary materials, colonialism and nomenclature; the reflection of self, and community and environment. Opening day, Feb 18, includes this [beading workshop](#) from **2-4 p.m.** that will become part of a community shawl. Check it out!

- m. **Feb. 21, 7:30-9p.m.** [Tehonkieron:nions \(They Are Entertaining\) – Spoken Word Café](#) Woodland Cultural Centre.
- n. **Feb. 22, 6:30-8 p.m.** [Piecing Together the Allyship Puzzle](#) Learn about walking with communities and supporting First Nation's efforts to obtain access to safe drinking water. This webinar is part of a series of educational opportunities that MCC and partners will be hosting to discuss the spiritual and cultural importance of water and the necessity of access to clean, safe water. The series will help participants explore what it means to listen, learn, and connect with water as well as each other.
- o. **Feb. 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.** 13th Annual [Conestoga Pow Wow](#) at [Conestoga College](#) 299 Doon Valley Dr, Kitchener.
- p. **Lots** of other events to learn about through [Eventbrite](#).

#### 4. Good Reads, News and Views

##### a. Reads

- i. One of my favourite books, Robin Wall Kimmerer's Braiding Sweetgrass, has been adapted for younger readers. Read and listen to details on CBC's The Next Chapter [here](#).
- ii. [Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation, and the Loss of Indigenous Life](#).
- iii. [Why do Indigenous Peoples Have Lower Education Levels?](#) Indigenous Corporate Training Blog. Consider subscribing if you find this helpful.

##### b. News

- i. [MP Jaime Battiste fighting riding changes that will remove Mi'kmaw nations](#) APTN.
- ii. [Canada's \\$2.8 billion settlement with Indigenous Day Scholars is a long time coming](#) and other interesting articles - Two Row Times.
- iii. [Minister signs deal to return land to Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory](#) CBC

##### c. Views

- i. [Gripping Four-Part Crave Original Investigative Docuseries, THUNDER BAY, Premieres February 17 - Bell Media](#) Producer is Ryan McMahon. You may know him from the film Colonization Road. Thanks, David von Wahl.
- ii. [Award-winning short film captures unique annual Inuit tradition](#). See the 13-minute film [here](#).