

Living Into Right Relations – December 2021

Hello,

Sometimes as I gather the items for these newsletters themes rise to the surface. This month I've been hearing and thinking about action. A few of us met about what was on our minds after the Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which led to a conversation about the challenge around potable water in various First Nations communities. I know this is a concern for lots of us. Two organizations that could use support are listed in Section 3.

That conversation was also about how to focus one's energy around reconciliation. Recently Bev McNabb told me that learning about the LandBack lunches (2b) inspired a relative to use her writing skills to call on the leadership of the Hamilton Spectator to offer more comprehensive reporting of events involving First Nations (letter attached).

It's a good question to think about: what can we bring to the [Calls to Action](#) and the events going on around us? I have heard more than one speaker encourage us to find one of the Calls to Action that we relate to and work in our sphere of influence to help bring that change about. A thought for a personal resolution as 2022 draws closer!

In January we will also put out a more formal offer of book studies. Please read Section 1 and let me know if any of the options listed interest you. Thanks.

Wishing you peace and sacred time with people you love over this holiday season,

Nancy

1. Book Study Options At a planning meeting in the summer there were suggestions to offer some book studies. I've listed a few ideas below for groups to start in the new year. If you're interested in connecting over any of these or have plans for a different one and would welcome interested folks, please let me know and I can link people with similar interests nancydykstra@gmail.com. What form they'd take (online or in person) can be sorted out as we see how everything evolves.

- a. **21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act.** Preview interview [here](#). It's an accessible book about a foundational piece of legislation that impacts all of us in Canada. To give a sense of the relationship Indigenous peoples feel towards it, there was a ceremonial burning of it at Victoria Park on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Many of us would benefit from learning more about it.
- b. **"21 Things"** is on the book list presented earlier this fall and reprinted below. Any other books in the list that you're interested in reading with a group? Let us know!
- c. [The Inconvenient Indian: Book Club | The Network](#) Created by the Christian Reformed Church, and has references to that denomination's particular history but is relevant for all of us. This online book club can be a catalyst for any group wishing to read this book and wanting some direction. It can be accessed at any time.
- d. Responding to the Calls to Action to the churches: any title from this series edited by Steve Heinrichs: [TRC Trilogy](#)

2. Land Back

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - read their Facebook posts
 - i. [Charles Street Terminal Redevelopment](#) - complete this survey from Waterloo Region about what to do with the Charles St Terminal. You may remember the [Letter Campaign](#) from O:se Kenhionhata:tie re: using it an Indigenous hub.
- b. [1492 Land Back Lane](#) Supportive actions -
 - i. **Friday Lunches for 1492 LandBack Lane - Our next delivery date: Late Dec for Dec 31** 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. Thank you!
 - ii. Support their [legal defense fund](#)
- c. **Arrowdale (Brantford)** - news articles from the Brantford Expositor:
[Support shown for Arrowdale occupation](#) (Nov 1)
[City issues statement clarifying housing plan and Arrowdale sale](#) (Nov 16)
- d. **Wet'suwet'en nation** - news articles:
[Protests and blockades spring up across Canada after RCMP raid](#) (Two Row Times)
[Land Back movement leader flagged by police as 'violent'](#) (CBC)

3. Supporting Indigenous initiatives


Here's a related article for your reading pleasure: [Indigenous artists working with companies like Instagram, Purolator, say representation is important](#)

- Dec. 2 evening: [Chiefswood Christmas Market](#) at Chiefswood Park, Six Nations
- to Dec. 5 [Online Indigenous Artisan Marketplace - NCCT](#)
- Niska Artisans (MCC) - now online! <https://mccmarketplace.ca/niska-artisans/>
- [Viola Desmond BIPOC businesses directory](#). A new initiative. Read about it [here](#). Currently lists about 30 businesses in the Waterloo/Guelph region.

Water

- Many people are concerned about the water advisories in First Nations Communities. Here are two ideas for supporting First Nations-led organizations that are trying to find solutions:
 - [Water First](#) Your donation will be doubled on [this page](#) . Thank you, Janet Main
 - Mishamikoweesh Water Partnership through the [Primate's World Relief and Development Fund](#) (Anglican)

4. Learning at home and events

- a. **Online Courses:** If you're thinking of diving into some deeper learning this winter, now's the time to register for some of the great courses that are available:
- i. [Reconciliation: Discussions and Implications for Settler Peoples in Canada](#)
Renison University College - DEADLINE for January course is Jan 7.
 - ii. [Indigenous Education](#) - OISE University of Toronto - free
 - iii. [Indigenous Canada](#) - University of Alberta - free
- b. [Circles For Reconciliation – Reconciliation in Canada](#) - opportunities to participate with a group in conversation and work towards reconciliation
- c. [Nations Uniting](#) Sharing Circle - will continue in the New Year, likely January 10. To join these conversations and be part of their mailing list contact Rhonda Johns at nations.uniting@gmail.com.
- d. [Woodland Cultural Centre](#) (Brantford) Museum and Art Gallery are open for self-guided tours. Tues-Fri 10-3, Sat 11-4. Very limited capacity so best to [book your time](#) before heading down..
- e. **Dec. 1 & 15, 7-8:30 p.m. Mohawk Institute Virtual tours.** Click the date for a link to tickets: [Dec 1](#) [Dec 15](#) We did this as a book club earlier this fall, a great way to learn together.
- f. **Dec. 2, 12-1p.m. UW Indigenous Speakers Series: Jean Teillet** Office of Indigenous Relations
- g. **Dec. 8, 12 - 5p.m. Creating Indigenous Spaces - Waterloo Region** Waterloo Region Community Legal Services partner with SOAHAC, Qualia Counselling Services and Crow Shield Lodge to discuss Indigenous resources available in the Waterloo Region and the work these organizations are accomplishing.
- h. **Dec. 8, 7p.m. Maamawi Revisted** Victoria Park Pavilion, Kitchener. Divest Waterloo and Faith & the Common Good are partnering with Terre Chartrand and Heather Majaury of Pins and Needles Fabric Company to present an evening of music and storytelling - the culmination of the Maamawi Revisited project. With [Rene Meshake](#) and local emerging Indigenous artists. Come out and participate in a vibrant local event! Tickets available through the link given. Donations will be accepted at the door to support Pins and Needles Fabric Company in providing programming for Indigenous youth. Thanks, Laura Hamilton.
- i. **Lots of other events online through [Eventbrite](#)**
- j. **In case you missed it...**
- i. [Honouring Lee Maracle](#) Unreserved (CBC radio) Nov. 30
 - ii.  [Protecting our Nibi \(Water\)](#) National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Day 1 of National Truth and Reconciliation Week. Audience: students. Autumn Pelletier on protecting water and the boil water advisories and her experience as a youth leader and role model for children. Part of the video is her being interviewed by another young person. Teachers and parents - good to watch with children.

5. Good Reads, News and Views

a. Reads

- i. [The Reason You Walk](#) by Wab Kinew
- ii. [A National Crime](#) - John Milloy. (1999) Documents the government policies and opinions, and world views that shaped the creation of Indian Residential Schools in Canada, stretching back before they became bricks and mortar locations and continuing until the late 1900s. Often referenced, worth knowing, and always on hold at the library!

For children, teachers, parents:

- iii. [Teacher's Guide for the Seven Teachings Stories](#) Katherena Vermette has written a series of children's books that draws its themes from the Seven Grandfather Teachings of the Anishinaabe -- love, wisdom, humility, courage, respect, honesty, and truth. This teachers' guide identifies each of the titles.
- iv. [Teaching Resource Centre - National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education](#) for Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators teaching students and learners of all ages.

b. News

- i. [Grand River is full of contaminants, says award-winning Indigenous McMaster prof](#)

Search for residential school graves begins at Mohawk Institute. Reporting from:

- ii. APTN News: [Search for unmarked graves begins at former Mohawk Institute site in Ontario](#)
- iii. CBC: [Ground search of former Mohawk Institute Residential School begins in Brantford](#)
- iv. Al Jazeera: [New search begins for residential school graves in Canada](#) -

c. Views (and related litany) - on the Doctrine of Discovery

- i. Documentary [Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen lands, Strong Hearts](#) - The Anglican Church of Canada
- ii. [Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery. Today](#) - Oct. 13, 2021 Mennonite Church Canada, Indigenous Settler Relations
- iii. Litany for churches [Responsive Reading - Repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery: A Litany for Churches](#) - by LIRR contributor Ron Flaming. Thank you, Ron!

Books on Residential Schools

Shi-shi-eiko and Shin-Chi's Canoe	Nicola Campbell	Ages 4-8
Artic Stories	Michael Kusugak	Ages 4-8
Kookum's Red Shoe	Peter Eyvindson	Ages 4-8
My Name is Seepeetza	Shirley Sterling	Ages 9-12
Fatty Legs	Christy Jordan Fenton & Margaret Paklak-Fenton	Ages 9-12
A stranger at Home	Christy Jordan-Fenton	Ages 9-12
No Time to Say Good bye: Children's Stories of Kuper Island Residential School	Sylvia Olsen	Ages 9-12
We feel Good our here=Zhik gwaa'an, nakhwatthaitat, qwiinzii (The Land is our Storybook)	Julie-Anne Andre & Mindy Willett	Ages 9-12
As Long as the Rivers Flow	Larry Lovie	Ages 9-12
Indian Horse	Richard Wagamese	
Orange Shirt Day	Phyllis Wetstad	
Seven Fallen Feathers	Tanya Talaga	
Dear Canada, These are my words: The Residential School Diary of Violet Pesheens	Ruby Slipperjack	
In Search of April Raintree	Beatrise Mosionier	
The Train	Jodie Callaghan	
I am not a Number	Jenny Kay Dupuis	
When we were Alone	David A. Robertson & Julie Flett	
The Break	Katherena Vermette	
Porcupines and China Dolls	Robert Arthur Alexie	

The Marrow Thieves	Cherie Dimoline
When I was Eight	Cherie Jordan Fenton
Not my Girl	Cherie Jordan Fenton
Stolen words	Melanie Florence
Phyllis' Orange Shirt Day	Phyllis Webstad
The Land is ours storybook	Julie-Anne Andre & Mindy Willett
When we play our Drums, They Sing!	Lucy & Lola -Richard Van Camp & Monique Gray Smith
Sugar Falls: A Residential School Story	David A. Robertson
Five Little Indians	Michelle Good
One Story, One Song	Richard Wagamese
The Red Files	Lisa Bird-Wilson
The Education of Augie Merasty	Joseph Auguste Merasty, & David Carpenter
Speaking our Truth	Monique Gray Smith
They Called me Number One	Bev Sellers
I lost my Talk	Rita Joe
Moon of the Crusted Snow	Waubgeshing Rice
I'm Finding my talk	Rebecca Thomas
Indigenous Relations: Insights, Tips & Suggestions to make Reconciliation a Reality	Bob Joseph
21 Things you may not Know about The Indian Act	Bob Joseph
Embers: Meditations	Richard Wagamese
Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom	Robin Wall Kimmer
Shi-shi-eiko and Shin-Chi's Canoe	

The Truth about Stories (CBC Massey Lectures)	Thomas King
The Other Side of the River (From Church Pew to Sweat Lodge)	Alf Dumont
Medicine Walk	Richard Wagamese
Broken Circle: The Dark Legacy of Indian Residential Schools	Theodore Fontaine
Norway House: Recollections, Adventures, Insights	Janet Holland