

Living Into Right Relations – January 2022

Hello and Happy New Year,

I hope you were able to spend some valued time with friends/family over the holidays. This new variant of the Coronavirus has impacted many of us much closer to home. Whatever your situation I hope that you are looking forward to the next year with hope and in the company of people you love.

(FYI, the PDF version is always attached to the email. I find it easier to read!)

Take good care,

Nancy

1. Book Studies: If you are interested in a short term (presumably online) book club, reading one book together with a group over the winter months, here are three ideas to consider. Please feel free to invite others to join with you or spread the word through your church bulletin using these as bulletin announcements. Please contact the group leaders by Jan 16 in order to give time to organize and order books.

- a. ***Unsettling the Settler Within*, by Paulette Regan**, who served as Director of Research for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Book description: In a thorough, well-researched and compelling manner, Regan documents Canadian myths about peacemaking settler superiority, myths that were constructed by the distortion and obliteration of Indigenous contributions, strengths and gifts. She invites settlers to undertake their own “unsettling” to gain a more truthful, just understanding of Canada’s history and present structural racism/ injustice.

Contact Melissa Miller melissa.a.miller2020@gmail.com to join and to find out about dates, times, and ordering the book.

- b. ***21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act* by Bob Joseph**. Joseph is the founder and president of [Indigenous Corporate Training Inc.](#), an Indigenous relations firm. This accessible book grew out of his [Working Effectively with Indigenous Peoples Blog](#) series. It is a very accessible look at this foundational piece of legislation that has embedded systemic discrimination, prejudice and racism against First Nations Peoples in our country.

Contact Nancy Dykstra nancydykstra@gmail.com to join and to find out about dates, times, and ordering the book. Exact dates will be worked out with people who join. We will likely meet 4 or 5 times.

- c. Starting Jan 20, a free 8-week book study of Seth Klein’s brilliant book - “**A Good War**” - engaging key Indigenous & settler leaders/activists in conversation about the paths of decarbonization & decolonization. Moderated by Steve Heinrichs and

hosted by Mennonite Church Canada. The study's goals are to grow in understanding and be given real ideas as to how we can collectively act for the systemic change we need. Everyone's welcome! Register [here](#). Thank you, Henriette Thompson.

2. Land Back

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - continue to stay up to date through their Facebook page.
 - i. Holding the O:se Kenhionhata:tie community in our thoughts in the loss of their member, Melissa.
- b. [1492 Land Back Lane](#) - continue to stay up to date through their Facebook page.

Skyler Williams' victory in court:

 - i. [Court cancels permanent injunction in Caledonia, grants appeal](#) - APTN
 - ii. [Appeal court rules with Land Back Lane activist, finds he was denied a chance to be heard](#) CBC

Supportive actions

- iii. **Friday Lunches for 1492 LandBack Lane** - We brought lunch down on Jan 31 and do not have a delivery date in January. 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
- iv. Support their [legal defense fund](#)

3. Learning at home and events

- a. **Jan 5, 19, Feb 9, 7p.m.** [Mohawk Institute Residential School Virtual Tour | Woodland Cultural Centre](#)
- b. **Jan 10, 1:30-3:30** [Nations Uniting](#) Sharing Circle - To join this event and be part of their mailing list contact Rhonda Johns at nations.uniting@gmail.com.
- c. **Jan 11, 3-4:30 EST** [Understanding Treaties: The Rights and Responsibilities of Treaty People in Today's World](#)
- d. Lots of other events online through [Eventbrite](#)
- e. Stay in touch with events at [Crow Shield Lodge](#) through their [Facebook page](#).
- f. **In case you missed it....**
 - i. [Chapter One by Kitchener Public Library](#) episodes 4, 5, 6 a special 3-episode series within their podcast that engages with wampum and contemporary treaties, territorial and land acknowledgments and most importantly, the actions that Canadians can take as we work together with First Peoples towards reconciliation.

4. News and Views

- a. **News** - we lost an Indigenous cultural leader on Christmas Day - Candy Palmater
 - i. Reporting from [CBC](#) and [CTV](#)
 - ii. Last summer she was involved with [Reconciliation Canada - Bringing Our Children Home](#)
- b. **Views**
 - i. [Event Recordings | Indigenous Student Services](#) at WLU events from the past year. Includes a series on storytelling in which the late Lee Maracle participated.