

## Living Into Right Relations – January 2025

Hello,

May we all find pathways of hope, peace and joy in this new year. Perhaps some of the offerings here will be part of that journey. One I'd like to highlight is a free course about Land Back. It has been chosen by the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to be a course for which they will offer facilitated support for a group study. See section 1b.

Section 5 is a short review of the source of land claims of the Six Nations of the Grand River, currently in litigation. We will try to keep this community informed, and appreciate hearing updates you may learn about as well. Other events and information range from films to a powwow, from politics to music, from political action to a new Toronto Raptors logo.

May you walk in good company,

Nancy ([nancydykstra@gmail.com](mailto:nancydykstra@gmail.com)). Thank you, as always, Henriëtte and Beverly for ongoing editing and other support!

**1. Land Back** An historic and ongoing aspect of our reality. How well do we understand it? Here is a current article related to the Oka Crisis of 1990 and a course devoted to the topic.

a. [Decades after the siege: Kanehsà:ke and Kahnawà:ke demands an apology](#) APTN.

b. **Opportunity to join a guided group study of a new course on [Land Back](#).**

A free 7-module course is being offered by [Yellowhead Institute](#), which operates out of Toronto Metropolitan University.

The Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada's Circle for Reconciliation and Justice, has created an online opportunity for anyone interested in following the course with a group, led by facilitator Rafael Rodriguez. Meeting times are Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m. every 3 weeks starting Jan 28 until June 3. Register for the course [here](#) and register for the zoom link to the group study [here](#). Thank you Rafael Rodriguez and Beverly McNabb.

## 2. Other Courses

For a deeper dive into relearning Indigenous/Canadian history, you might look at these free online public education courses offered by various universities. Some have been around for years; others are new. Following the course with a friend or small group might generate interesting conversations.

a. [Introduction to Indigenous Matters](#), offered by Wilfrid Laurier University, beginning in January. Read more [here](#). Thanks, Jim Dawson and Ellie Joseph. .

b. [Indigenous Canada](#) offered by the University of Alberta.

### 3. The Occasional Arts Section

- a. **On until May 4** at the Art Gallery of Guelph [Do You Remember Love](#) brings together artist Susan Mogul's 1997 video *I Stare at You and Dream* with a collection of quillboxes from the Museum on Tower Hill in Parry Sound.
- b. **On until the end of 2025** [Where The Rivers Meet](#), City Gallery, Guelph Museums, 52 Norfolk St. Guelph.
- c. **Jan. 16 - May 4** [Recent Acquisitions Contemporary Indigenous Artists](#) Art Gallery of Guelph.
- d. **Jan 27 to Feb 2** [Reframe Film Festival](#) Online.

### 4. Learning at home and connecting in person

- a. [Crow Shield Lodge](#) in Waterloo Region has a range of events related to education, healing, land stewardship and reconciliation. Look for events listing [here](#).
- b. **For teachers and students before Jan 25** [Imagine a Canada](#) sponsored by the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#).
- c. [Six Nations Polytechnic](#) Lunch & Learn: Storytelling. See [SNP Calendar](#) for info.  
**Wed, Jan. 8, 12-1 p.m.** Six Nations Campus. 2160 4th Line Rd., Ohsweken.  
**Wed, Jan. 15, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** Brantford Campus 411 Elgin St., Brantford.
- d. **Wed, Jan. 8, 6-9 p.m.** [Keeping Connected: An Evening of Indigenous Storytelling](#) University of Waterloo Libraries. Online and East Campus 5 (EC5), Room 1111. Please register [here](#) to help facilitate online attendance.
- e. **Sat, Jan. 11, 12-4 p.m.**, First United Church, [16 William St W, Waterloo](#). Join Amnesty International's annual [Write for Rights](#) letter-writing campaign. One case the local chapter, Group Nine, will be focussing on is the criminalization of Wet'suwet'en Land Defenders. For more information, email [groupnine9@gmail.com](mailto:groupnine9@gmail.com). See poster attached to email. Thank you, Margaret Jackson.
- f. **Tue, Jan. 14, 6-8:30 p.m.** (+ Feb & Mar) [Write Relations: Medicine wheel stories as medicine with Hope Engel](#) 295 Lancaster St. W., Unit B, Kitchener.
- g. **Wed, Jan. 15, 6 p.m.** Mohawk Institute Virtual tour. Look for a link to tickets [here](#).
- h. **Thurs, Jan. 16, 7-8 p.m.** [Indigenous Reading Group](#) with Willow River Centre, Main Library, Board Room. Register [here](#).
- i. **Thurs, Jan. 16, 6 p.m.** Northern Reads Book Club. Online. A conversation with [Valley of the Birdtail](#) authors Andrew Stobo Sniderman and Douglas Sanderson (Amo Binashii), Swampy Cree, Beaver clan, of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation. Hosted by [True North Aid](#) and supported by [Good Minds Books](#). Donate and register [here](#).
- j. **Fri, Jan. 17, 11 a.m.-5 p.m** [Hadiya'dagénhahs 2nd Annual Pow Wow](#), Brock University.
- k. **Mon, Jan. 27, 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](mailto:nations.uniting@gmail.com).

- i. **Sat, Jan 25, 7-9 p.m.** [Two Row On The Grand](#) Film Fest fundraiser at the Six Nations Community Hall in Ohsweken. Learn about and celebrate this annual 10-day event and support the work that it does to bring people together on the Grand River practising life in the spirit of the Two Row Wampum. See poster attached to email.
- m. **Wed, Jan 29, 5-8 p.m.** An event in support of the Wet'suwet'en is being planned at United College at UWaterloo. It will include showing the documentary [Yintah](#); a conversation with Wet'suwet'en leader Dr Karla Tait, and gathering signatures for the Write for Rights Campaign for the Wet'suwet'en (see "e" above). For more info contact Margaret at [maggiebanjo1914@gmail.com](mailto:maggiebanjo1914@gmail.com). Thank you, Margaret Jackson.
- n. **Jan. 29, 12-2** Grandmothers' Tea at Nations Uniting, 1652 Chiefswood Road, Ohsweken. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Contact Joan (519-754-8786) or Shirley (519-753-5789) for more information.
- o. **Fri, Jan. 31, 8 p.m.** Doors open at 7:30 [Hillside Inside Presents Logan Staats & Katie Tupper](#). Royal City Mission, 50 Quebec St., Guelph.
- p. **Mon, Feb. 3, 2-3:30 and 7-8:30 p.m.** The Concerned Lay Catholics' Indigenous Teachings book study, [The Berry Pickers](#) by Amanda Peters. Online, facilitated by Donna McGreal. To register and for more information contact [concernedlaycatholics@gmail.com](mailto:concernedlaycatholics@gmail.com).

## 5. Six Nations land claims - a short history with links to a deeper dive.

An animating impulse behind this Living Into Right Relations (LIRR) newsletter is the belief that settlers have an obligation to learn the history of colonization in Canada and on the Haldimand Tract, in particular. Since late 1994, Six Nations of the Grand River has been litigating against federal and provincial/Ontario governments for an accounting of 900,000+ acres of lands and resources lost to settler governments since the establishment of the Haldimand Proclamation (1784), land given in perpetuity to the Six Nations of the Grand River.

The Two Row Wampum of 1613, known as Guswenta or Kaswentha in Mohawk, tells the story of an agreement between Iroquois people and the Dutch to co-exist on the river of life, according to Rick Hill, who has published the most comprehensive oral history of the Two Row wampum belt to date. As more European nations began to arrive on Turtle Island (aka North America) in the 1600s, and fought amongst each other for territory and resources, Indigenous claims to traditional lands came under threat. They remain under threat to this day. Six Nations of the Grand River, and many other First Nations, have actively resisted this threat.

You can learn about the current Six Nations land claims process [via maps, an information index, and litigation timeline](#). It's clear from the litigation timeline that this is an ongoing land claim and is expected to go to pretrial in December this year.

For a broader context of Indigenous efforts to reclaim land and claim compensation, read the Yellowhead Institute's Red Papers on [Land Back](#) and on [Cash Back](#).

Thank you to Henriette Thompson for this summary.

## 6. Good Reads, News and Views

### a. Reads

- i. From Bob Joseph, of Indigenous Corporate Training Inc. A free download from their [Indigenous Relations Newsletter: Dispelling Common Myths About Indigenous Peoples](#) 9 Myths and Realities. This might make a good book study for people without much time for reading; it's only 26 pages!
- ii. [She Is Wise Magazine](#) Ontario Native Women's Association
- iii. [The Serviceberry : Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World](#) new from Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of [Braiding Sweetgrass](#).

### b. News

- i. [Truth & Politics - APTN News](#)
- ii. [2024 Indigenous Rights Year in Review](#) First Peoples Law
- iii. [Toronto Raptors Unveil Indigenous-Inspired Logo and Host Heritage Game on January 6](#) Two Row Times

### c. Views

- i. APTN TV [Ghost Hunters of the Grand River](#) and other shows that might catch your interest.
- ii. [Deskahéh \(2024\)](#) Animated short film (12 min). Weaves the profound story of Haudenosaunee leader Deskahéh Levi General's travels from Six Nations of the Grand River to the League of Nations between 1923 and 1925, where he sought to gain international recognition of the Haudenosaunee's sovereignty. Learn more [here](#).