

Living Into Right Relations – April 2025

Hello,

We would like to correct an error and omission in the March LIRR newsletter and acknowledge the titles and nations of origin of two people in the "**Reads**" Section, 2a:

The Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould (Kwakwaka'wakw; former MP and Liberal Cabinet Minister), and The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Landsdowne, Moderator of the United Church of Canada (Kwisa'lakw, Heiltsuk First Nation).

My sincere apologies for this error. The upcoming event is noted again this month in Section 3i.

Please also note Sections 1 and 2 which focus on the upcoming Red Dress Day, and how and why to "elbow up" to support Indigenous tourism this year.

As always, we welcome relevant information if you'd like to pass it our way. Thanks!

Nancy (nancydykstra@gmail.com), Henriëtte and Bev, the search and edit team.

1. May 5 is **Red Dress Day**, the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S).

This [2024 article from Amnesty International](#) provides some background. The events referred to in the article may not be happening this year, but there are some things we can all do to increase awareness: wear red, hang a red dress outside your home, workplace or church, and participate in Red Dress events in your community.

In KW there is usually a walk and vigil organized by Healing of the Seven Generations (H7G). It's early April so information is not yet posted. Check the H7G [website](#) or [facebook](#) page closer to the date. Also if in KW, look for events or information from such sources as [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) or UW [Office of Indigenous Relations](#). In other places, check libraries, municipal events and university or local Indigenous organizations. Attached is are some Red Dress Day resources offered by Gladys Bender and the Wilmot Ecumenical group.

2. Supporting Indigenous tourism as we plan summer activities.

The Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (the sector employs 36,000 mostly Indigenous people) says their members could face additional challenges in the tariff war due to their reliance on rural infrastructure, higher transportation costs and limited financial resources. So, "elbows up"! Here are some ways to support local Indigenous tourism and opportunities further afield.

Along the Grand

[Six Nations Tourism](#) is offering [Experience Packages](#) within the Six Nations area.

[Chiefswood Park](#) has camping, trails, an historic site and a variety of [activities](#) including Friday night movies in the park.

[River Talks Series](#): lunch and lecture while floating along the Grand. A six-lecture series called "Haudenosaunee of the Grand: A Six Nations Narrative." From [Grand River Cruises](#) near Caledonia. (At this point, the schedule is tentative.)

[Grand River Champion of Champions Pow Wow](#) July 25 - 27.

Further afield

Other Pow Wows across Ontario. Consider going to one in whatever area you visit this summer. Here's a website to check: [Ontario Pow Wow Calendar: 2025 Edition](#). Most are not up yet. We'll likely have more up-to-date information in May.

Indigenous-owned parks and guiding organizations [11 Indigenous-Owned Outdoor Adventure Companies in Ontario](#).

Canada-wide: [Destination Indigenous](#) and Parks Canada's [Indigenous tourism experiences](#)

The Arts - look for plays and events that feature Indigenous authors, musicians, actors.

Further reading

This [Globe and Mail article](#) discusses concerns of Indigenous tour operators about losing clients from the U.S., and this research looks at the [untapped potential of Canadian Indigenous Tourism](#). Thank you to Henriëtte Thompson for bringing this to our attention.

3. 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, including a monthly women's full moon ceremony (Sept 17), men's sharing circle (Sept 18), and more. Events listing [here](#).
- b. **Until May 28** [liminal hesitation: between haudenosaunee thought and expression](#) An exhibition of artworks by greg staats at the Longhouse Labs 263 Phillip St. UW, East Campus Hall, Phillip St. entrance. Gallery hours: Mon/Wed noon - 6 p.m.
- c. **Tues. Apr. 8, 6-8:30p.m.** [Indigenous Creatives United - Natures Medicine Talk](#) with Zhooshkwa Chartrand Belair. The Grove Cafe, 295B Lancaster St. W., Kitchener.
- d. [Six Nations Polytechnic](#) Lunch & Learn: Seed Exchange and Planting See [SNP Calendar](#) for info. Details not available at the time of publication.
Wed. Apr. 9, 12-1 p.m. Six Nations Campus. 2160 4th Line Rd., Ohsweken.
Wed. Apr. 16, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Brantford Campus 411 Elgin St., Brantford.
- e. **Sun. Apr. 13, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.** Healing of the Seven Generations' [Spring Art Market](#), at Victoria Park Pavilion, 80 Schneider Ave., Kitchener.

- f. **Tues. Apr 22, Apr. 29 and May 6, 7-8:30 p.m.** [Jubilee Book Study](#) – [The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World](#) by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Online, through KAIROS Canada. Details and registration [here](#).
- g. **Thurs. Apr. 24, 4-5 p.m.** [Indigenous Sharing Circles with Kelly Welch](#). Ka'nikonhrí:io Nikanak'tó:ten Multipurpose Room (SW), [Southwest Library](#), 100 Rosenberg Way, Kitchener.
- h. **Thurs. Apr. 24, 7-8 p.m.** [Indigenous Reading Circle](#) with [Willow River Centre](#) at Waterloo Public Library, [Main Branch](#).
- i. **Fri, Apr 25 2025, 6:30 - 8:30p.m.** Online [The Mod's Book Squad Discussion](#) of [True Reconciliation - how to be a force for change](#) - written by the Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould (Kwakwaka'wakw; former MP and Liberal Cabinet Minister), Hosted by Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of The United Church of Canada (Kwisa'lakw, Heiltsuk First Nation), with guest Lori Ransom, Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Animator, Indigenous Ministries and Justice for The United Church of Canada (Pikwakanagan First Nation). Register [here](#).
- j. **Sat, Apr. 26. 8:00 a.m.** [Grand River Water Ceremony](#), at [Otterbein Kayak Launch](#) in Kitchener. Please arrive on time to walk to the river together and smudge. Wear ceremonial regalia as your spirit calls; drums and shakers are also suggested.
- k. **Mon. Apr. 28, 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.
- l. **Wed, Apr. 30, 12-2** Grandmothers' Tea at Mount Pleasant United Church, 669 Mount Pleasant Rd., Mount Pleasant. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Call 226-984-1557 for more information.
- m. **Fri. May 2, 7 p.m.** Film screening [Walking Through the Fire](#). An award-winning visual album, a collaboration between The Sultans of String and a variety of Indigenous musicians across the country. This musical project is a response to TRC Calls to Action. Opening remarks from Sultans of String producer Chris McKhool and a post-screening Q&A with McKhool and Indigenous Elder/'Walking Through The Fire' collaborator, Shannon Thunderbird. Parkminster United Church, 275 Erb St. E. Waterloo. Reserve your free tickets [here](#). Donations gratefully accepted at the door.
- n. **Sat, May 3, 12-4 p.m.** [Bracelet Beading Workshop](#) with Haudenosaunee artisan, Susan Hill. McDougall Cottage Historic Site. 89 Grand Ave. S., Cambridge.
- o. **Sat. May 3, 6-9 p.m.** [Spaghetti dinner](#) In support of the All Nations Grand River Water walk, happening this year Sept 21-27. Stirling Ave. Mennonite Church, 57 Stirling Ave. N., Kitchener.
- p. **Mon. May 5, 2-3:30 and 7-8:30 p.m.** The Concerned Lay Catholics' Indigenous Teachings Book study. [Come Dance With Me](#) by Sr Eva Solomon. Online, facilitated by Donna McGreal. To register and for more information contact concernedlaycatholics@gmail.com.
- q. Other events in your area may be found on [Eventbrite](#).

On the Radar

- r. **Sat. June 14, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.** Strawberry Thanksgiving and Communion **For those in church leadership**. Are you wondering how your church can honour the Haldimand Tract Proclamation of 1784? Consider attending the [Strawberry](#)

- [Thanksgiving and Communion](#), an in-person event, held at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, 110 Doon Rd., Kitchener. This year's event will seek to build on the momentum of last year's conversation about [Spiritual Covenants](#). This gathering presents an opportunity to collectively explore practical ways for the church to engage with these significant issues. Click [here](#) for a video story. Registration required as space is limited.
- s. **Aug. 11-15 [Timmins Learning Tour](#):** An immersive and experiential opportunity to learn and grow with MCC Ontario's Indigenous Neighbours team as we listen and engage with First Nation partners in the North. The trip is about gaining understanding on what it truly means to be good neighbours.
 - t. **August Grand River Community Play Project.** [THE VOICE OF THE RIVER](#). In process since 2022, and culminating in August. Click on the link for details and to find out how to get involved.

4. Good Reads, News and Views

a. Reads

- i. [Hudson's Bay collapses, but its colonial legacy lives on](#) Niigaan Sinclair Biidaajimowin | News from the Centre, Winnipeg Free Press.
- ii. Winner of Canada Reads: [A Two-Spirit Journey](#) by Ma-Nee Chacaby, with Mary Louisa Plummer. Ma-Nee Chacaby, an Objibwe-Cree lesbian who grew up in a remote northern Ontario community, tells the story of how she overcame experiences with abuse and alcohol addiction to become a counsellor and lead Thunder Bay's first gay pride parade.

b. News

- i. [Remains found at private landfill outside Winnipeg identified as Mercedes Myran](#), Kathleen Martens, APTN.
- ii. [We can't be left out:' Indigenous leaders want action, inclusion as election heats up](#). Brett Forester, CBC.
- iii. [Canadian government agrees to \\$30-million advance payment for Mississaugas of Credit First Nation land claim](#) Aliyah Marko and Ilyas Hussein, Toronto Star.
- iv. [Indigenous Services minister says economic reconciliation essential amid Canada-U.S. trade war](#), Sarah Law, CBC.
- v. [First Nations have been excluded from tariff talks, breaching centuries old treaties](#) Ashleigh-Rae Thomas, Rabble.

c. Views

- i. Sugarcane [Film on legacy of residential schools in Canada nominated for best documentary at 2025 Oscars](#) Courtney Dickson, CBC.