

Living Into Right Relations – May 2025

Hello,

Last month we began to look at ways to support Indigenous enterprises in these challenging economic times. We continue this as we highlight some summer opportunities related to pow wows and the arts (Sections 1 & 2). See also: [How Effective Indigenous Relations Contribute to Economic Certainty](#) in Section 4a.ii.

As always, we welcome contributions of relevant information for this monthly newsletter. Thanks!

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

1. Pow Wows this Summer Whether you've been often or haven't yet experienced one, you might consider attending a pow wow this summer. Know that there is specific etiquette to follow when attending a pow wow.

[Great Lakes 2025 Pow Wow Guide](#) See p. 27 for info about dance styles and p. 28 for info about pow wow etiquette. Pow wow listings start on p. 29.

[Canadian Pow Wows](#) is another source with good background information and a list of pow wows across Canada.

2. Occasional Arts Section - galleries, film and theatre that may help you plan your summer.

- a. **Until May 18.** [Greg Staats: Runners Continuum](#). Solo photo exhibition at [Art Gallery of Hamilton](#). 123 King St. W., Hamilton.
- b. **May 24-Aug 24.** [CAMP](#) sculptural installations by Inuk sculptor Couzyn van Heuvelen. Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery.
- c. **May 17.** “[Currents of Change](#): Inspiring Action Along the Grand River” exhibition at McDougall Cottage, Waterloo Region Museum.
- d. **June 3-8 in Toronto and June 9-15 online.** [2025 ImagineNATIVE](#) Film + Media Arts Festival.
- e. **June 18 – Aug 3.** [Sir John A: Acts of a Gentrified Ojibway Rebellion](#), theatre performance, Blyth Festival Theatre.

3. Learning at home and connecting in person

- a. **Thurs, May 8, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.** [Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation](#) 10-Year Anniversary Free BBQ. At Chiefswood Park, 1037 Hwy 54, Ohsweken.

- b. Weekly [movies and cartoons](#) on Thursdays and Fridays at [Chiefswood Park](#). 1037 Highway 54, Ohsweken.
- c. **Fri, May 9, 7-10 p.m.**, [Feed the Fire](#) Fundraiser for [Crow Shield Lodge](#). Crow Shield Lodge in Waterloo Region hosts a range of events related to education, healing, land stewardship and reconciliation, including a monthly women's full moon ceremony (May 12), men's sharing circle (May 21), and more. Events listing [here](#).
- d. **Sat, May 10, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.** [Seed Celebration - Doors Open Along the Grand](#) Woodland Cultural Centre, 184 Mohawk St. Brantford. Free. RSVP [here](#).
- e. **Tues, May 13, 6-9 p.m.** [Indigenous Poets Society](#) Open Mic. The Grove Cafe, 295B Lancaster St. W., Kitchener.
- f. **Thurs, May 15** [Moose Hide Campaign Day](#), a day of ceremony where all Canadians are called to join together to take a stand against violence towards women and children and to take practical steps for our collective journey of reconciliation. Free. Learn more about the issue [here](#).
- g. **Thurs, May 15, 7-8 p.m.** [Indigenous Reading Circle](#) - with [Willow River Centre](#), Waterloo Library, Main Branch, 35 Albert St. Waterloo.
- h. **Sat, May 17, 7 p.m.** [50th Stars of Tomorrow Talent Showcase](#) Host: Michelle Farmer's Studio of Dance & Modelling. At the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts, 88 Dalhousie St, Brantford. Free admission.
- i. **Wed, May 21, 6-7:30 p.m.** Former Mohawk Institute public virtual tour. Click [here](#) for a link to tickets. For more about this and other events and tours, go to the [Woodland Cultural Centre](#).
- j. [Six Nations Polytechnic](#) Lunch & Learn: Six Nations Ecology. See [SNP Calendar](#) for info. Details not available at the time of publication.
Wed, May 14, 12-1 p.m. Six Nations Campus. 2160 4th Line Rd., Ohsweken.
Wed, May 21, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Brantford Campus 411 Elgin St., Brantford.
- k. **Sat, May 24. 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.
- l. **Mon, May 26, 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.
- m. **Tues, May 27, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.** [Bridging Histories: A Journey of Reflection and Reconciliation](#) Hosted by Mennonite Central Committee at Lincoln Museum and Cultural Centre, 3800 Main St., Jordan Station. Through historical and current reflections, learning and dialogue, we'll consider the intersections of Mennonite settlement and Indigenous histories in Niagara, and gain a deeper understanding of our shared past and the invitation to the work of reconciliation. \$65, includes lunch.
- n. **Wed, May 28, 12-2p.m.** Grandmothers' Tea at St Thomas Apostle Church, 110 Francis St, Cambridge. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Contact Joan (519-754-8786) or Shirley (519-753-5789) for more information.
- o. **Thurs, May 29, 4 p.m.** [Indigenous Sharing Circle](#) with Kelly Welch. Southwest Community Library, 100 Rosenberg Way, Kitchener.
- p. **Sat, May 31, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** [One Water Journey: Indigenous Perspectives with Gimaa Stacey Laforme](#) Hosted by City of Guelph and supported by The Blueprint:

Guelph's One Water Plan, the City's first integrated water management strategy that considers drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater as one interconnected system. A land-based learning experience open to all that encourages us to think about our connections with water, land, and each other. Led by Gimaa (Chief) Stacey Laforme, a Knowledge Holder and former Chief from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Hooper Street Park, 47 Hooper St., Guelph. Free.

- q. **Sun, June 1, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** [Willow River Centre](#) will be kicking off this year's [Pride Month & National Indigenous People's Month](#) at the Kitchener Farmers Market. Details to follow at the Centre's link above.
- r. **Mon, June 2, 2-3:30 and 7-8:30 p.m.** The Concerned Lay Catholics' Indigenous Teachings book study. [Laughing With the Trickster](#) by Tomson Highway (Barren Lands First Nation, Manitoba) or listen to the 2022 CBC Massey Lecture - Laughing with the Trickster. Online, facilitated by Donna McGreal. To register and for more information contact concernedlaycatholics@gmail.com.
- s. **Sat. June 14, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.** Strawberry Thanksgiving and Communion. 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, at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, 110 Doon Rd., Kitchener. This year we will seek to build on the momentum of last year's conversation about [Spiritual Covenants](#). This is 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.
- t. Other events in your area may be found on [Eventbrite](#).

On the radar

- u. Early June. Film screening of [Sugarcane](#) hosted by St Mary's ReconciliACTION Circle, Kitchener. For more information contact Richard Olson (olsorich@gmail.com).

4. Good Reads, News and Views

a. Reads

- i. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - Willow River Centre, 243 King St., Kitchener. Read their Facebook posts. e.g., [Introducing Willow River Public School in Kitchener](#). This is a celebration for [Willow River Centre](#)!
- ii. [How Effective Indigenous Relations Contribute to Economic Certainty](#) Indigenous Corporate Training INC blog, April 8.
- iii. [UBC Professors' Attempt to Deny the Facts of Law and History](#) By the Hon. Harry S. LaForme & Bruce McIvor. First Peoples Law, blog, April 24.

b. News

- i. [Canadian voters hand Liberals 4th term. Indigenous candidates win, leading in a number of ridings](#) APTN
- ii. [Indigenous restorative justice programs provide offenders an alternative to court or prison](#) APTN

- iii. [Canada agrees to \\$30M advance payment for Mississaugas of Credit First Nation land claim](#) Sarah Petz, CBC
- iv. ['New way forward': First Nations working with Ontario on hydroelectric projects](#) Amanda Rabski-McColl, TimminsToday.com
- v. [Federal government ends MMIWG funding to northern prosecution offices](#) Liny Lamberink, CBC

c. Views

- i. [Who killed Sonya Cywink? A sister's journey to find the truth | The Fifth Estate](#)