

## Living Into Right Relations – June 2025

Hello,

June is National Indigenous History Month. It feels like a painful irony that history is repeating itself as Ontario's Bill 5 passed into law just days ago. At both provincial and federal levels pending or new legislation is prioritizing the resource extraction economy over environmental and cultural protections and hard-won recognition of Indigenous rights. See the News section (6b) for more.

Alongside and in the face of these setbacks, we are celebrating this month, and in particular Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21. There is much to celebrate. Events in Section 1 are focussed on June 21, but the usual list of events in Section 5 offers opportunities all month long. There's also a section identifying local Indigenous-led and Indigenous focussed organizations that you can get to know better. The Reads Section includes this year's Pow Wow guide. Choose your own adventure!

May you walk in good company,

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

### **1. Events on June 21 celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day.** A short, incomplete list, mostly around KW.

- a. **7 a.m.** Sunrise gathering and Procession, beginning at the Willow River Centre (WRC). Look [here](#) for details closer to the date. See more about WRC in Section 2.
- b. **9:30 a.m. - noon.** [KAIROS facilitated Blanket Exercise](#) Mount Zion Lutheran Church, 29 Westmount Rd. S., Waterloo. Free. Thank you, Lana Moses.
- c. **11 a.m. - 4 p.m.** [Woodland Cultural Centre](#) 184 Mohawk St., Brantford.
- d. **7-10 p.m.** [Celebrate the Summer Solstice & National Indigenous Peoples Day](#), 1864 Sawmill Rd., Caledonia. Cost: \$91.86
- e. **June 21, noon - June 22, 6 p.m.** [KW Multicultural Festival](#), Victoria Park, Kitchener.

### **2. Land Back**

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - at Willow River Centre, 243 King St., Kitchener - has good news and bad news:
  - i. Good news: Rumour has it that they will finally be getting a permanent fire circle in Willow River Park (Victoria Park). Watch for news about this.
  - ii. Bad News: You may have heard that they are [facing the closure of their King St location](#) because of lack of funds. Learn more and offer financial support either through [their Go Fund Me campaign](#) or at this link: [Support us | O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#)

### 3. Get to know local Indigenous-led or Indigenous-focussed

**organizations.** This is a short, and likely incomplete, list in the KW/Waterloo Region area. Have we missed any? We'd love to hear about organizations in other parts of the Watershed as well. Perhaps you could learn more about one of these during the month of June. Feel free to share your knowledge. Thank you.

- [Anishnabeg Outreach](#) Learn about volunteering [here](#).
- [Crow Shield Lodge](#)
- [The Healing of the Seven Generations](#)
- [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#)
- [Urban Native Wigwam Project](#).
- [White Owl Native Ancestry Association](#),
- [Wisahkotewinowak](#) Collective
- Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre ([SOAHAC](#))

Indigenous services at local colleges and universities:

- [Conestoga College - Office of Indigenous Initiatives](#)
- [University of Waterloo - Office of Indigenous Relations](#)
- [Wilfrid Laurier - Indigenous Student Services](#)

### 4. Occasional Arts Section

- Until December 14.** [Currents of Change: Inspiring Action along the Grand River](#). McDougall Cottage Historic Site, 89 Grand Ave. S., Cambridge.
- Until Aug 24.** [CAMP](#) sculptural installations by Inuk sculptor Couzyn van Heuvelen. Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery.
- June 3-8, 2025 in Toronto and June 9-15, 2025 online** festival. [The imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival is bringing its 25th festival to Indigenous Peoples' Month](#).
- Sat, June 7, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Sun, June 8, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.** [Re-Enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek](#), Battlefield House Museum & Park, National Historic Site, 77 King St. W., Stoney Creek.
- Tues, June 10, 6-9 p.m.** Indigenous Poets Society Open Mic. The Grove Cafe 295B Lancaster St. W., Kitchener.
- June 14 - Oct 5.** [Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun Lets'lo:tse'tun: Floor Opener](#). KW Art Gallery, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener.
- Wed, June 18, 6 - 8 p.m.** [Re-Neighbouring as Reconciliation: Indigenous Stories of Resistance](#) Art Gallery of Hamilton, 123 King St. W., Hamilton.
- Thurs, June 19, 6 - 9:30 p.m.** [Until They Are Found: MMIW+ Red Dress Gathering & Art Expo](#) Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum, 10 Huron Rd., Kitchener. Free.

## 5. 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 (June 11), men's sharing circle (June 18), and more. See their monthly newsletter [here](#).
- b. Weekly [movies and cartoons](#) on Thursdays and Fridays at [Chiefswood Park](#). 1037 Highway 54, Ohsweken.
- c. **Mon, June 9, 7:30 p.m.** Online. [Pope Francis and Indigenous Peoples: A Legacy of Reconciliation, Solidarity & Care for our Common Home](#). Thanks, Donna McGreal.
- d. **Tues, June 10, 7-8 p.m.** [Discussion With Dr. Lianne Leddy](#) Anishinabekwe associate professor of history at Wilfrid Laurier University, and winner of the 2023 Governor General award for [Serpent River Resurgence: Confronting Uranium Mining at Elliot Lake](#). At Eastside Branch of Waterloo Public Library (2001 University Ave E.), in partnership with the City of Waterloo Museum. Register through the link above.
- e. [Six Nations Polytechnic](#) Lunch & Learn: Archery See [SNP Calendar](#) for info. Details not available at the time of publication.  
**Wed, June 11, 12-1 p.m.** Six Nations Campus. 2160 4th Line Rd., Ohsweken.  
**Wed, June 18, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** Brantford Campus 411 Elgin St., Brantford.
- f. **Thurs, June 12, 6:30-9 p.m.** Free film screening of [Sugarcane](#) at the Princess Twin Cinema, 46 King St. N., Waterloo. Academy Awards 2025 nominee for Best Documentary. Co-sponsored by St Mary's Truth & ReconciliACTION Circle and The Waterloo Catholic District School Board. GO, if you possibly can, and bring friends! See attached poster for QR code to register.
- g. **Sat. June 14, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.** [Strawberry Thanksgiving and Communion](#), at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, 110 Doon Rd., Kitchener. Collectively learn more about [Spiritual Covenants](#), practical ways for churches to engage with reparation and renewal of relationship with Indigenous neighbours. Click [here](#) for a video story. Registration required as space is limited.
- h. **Sat, June 14, 12 p.m.** [Taste of Tradition - Lunch Theatre](#), Gathering Place by the Grand, 2593 Chiefswood Road, Cost: \$75.
- i. **Sun, June 15**, Indigenous Day of Prayer. From the [United Church](#): worship resources including, but not limited to, National Indigenous Day of Prayer.
- j. **Tues, June 17, 5-7 p.m.** 3rd Annual [Strawberry Social](#), Mohawk Park - 51 Lynnwood Drive, Brantford.
- k. **Wed, June 18, 1-2:30.** [An Afternoon with Kai Potts](#). Office of Indigenous Relations, UWaterloo.
- l. **Wed, June 18, 6-7:30 p.m.** Public Virtual Screening of [Silent No More](#). Cost: \$10 donation to the Woodland Cultural Centre Education Department. See link for tickets.
- m. **Wed, June 18, 6:15 p.m. start.** [Trio Restaurant Event: First Nations. Indigenous Night](#). 40 King St. S., Waterloo.

- n. **Thurs, June 19, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** [Celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day!](#)  
Hosted by Office of Indigenous Relations and Waterloo Undergraduate Association.  
See link for list of events being held on the BMH Green, University of Waterloo.
- o. **Sun, June 22, 1:30-4:30 p.m.** [Kairos Blanket Exercise](#) at Waterloo North Mennonite Church, [100 Benjamin Rd, Waterloo](#). To register email Ralph Martin [rcmartin@uoguelph.ca](mailto:rcmartin@uoguelph.ca). Thank you, Ron Flaming.
- p. **Wed, June 25, 12-2.** Grandmothers' Tea at Mohawk Chapel, 301 Mohawk St., Brantford. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Contact Grand River U.C at 519-445-0955 for more information.
- q. **Thurs, June 26, 4 p.m.** [Indigenous Sharing Circle](#) with Kelly Welch. Southwest Community Library, 100 Rosenberg Way, Kitchener.
- r. **Sat, June 28. 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.
- s. **Aug 10- 18.** Invitation to join Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) delegation to the Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation). Apply by July 1. Information and link to application form [here](#). Thank you, Laura Enns.
- t. **Aug 19-27.** Journey of reconciliation on Lake Temagami. A fully funded canoe trip for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth, aged 14-18. See [Gibimishkaadimin](#) website for information and application form.
- u. Other events in your area may be found on [Eventbrite](#).

## On the radar

- v. Grand River Water Walk Facebook auction is coming - August 5-24. Contributions are being accepted now. See information [here](#).

## 6. Good Reads, News and ... Listen

### a. Reads

- i. [2025 Pow Wow Guide](#).
- ii. [Valley of the Birdtail](#) Highly recommended! This coming Oct 24, there will be an author event in Waterloo. Save the date and watch for book studies in the fall in preparation.
- iii. [The North-West is Our Mother - the story of Louis Riel's people, the Métis Nati](#) by Jean Teillet. Thank you, Henriëtte Thompson.
- iv. [Why King Charles' Visit is Important for Treaty First Nations](#) Dr Bruce McIvor.

### b. News -

- i. [NDP MPP Sol Mamakwa ejected from legislature for saying Ford is telling 'untruths' about Bill 5](#) CP 24.

Resource extraction legislation across the country that made the news in the same week:

- ii. **Federally:** [AFN national chief calls for seat at upcoming federal-provincial meeting](#) Fast-tracked projects raise concerns over Indigenous and treaty rights. Karyn Pugliese, APTN, May 28.
- iii. **BC:** [Bill 15 is now law. B.C. First Nations leaders say it's a step back for reconciliation](#), Shannon Waters, The Narwhal, May 28.
- iv. **Ontario:** [Broken trust and Bill 5: First Nations rally against Doug Ford's controversial mining bill](#) Fatima Syed, The Narwhal, June 2.
- v. **Quebec:** [First Nations say Quebec legislation threatens environment](#) , [Savanna Craig](#), APTN, May 27.
- vi. **Nova Scotia:** [Nova Scotia chiefs say province needs to improve consultation on natural resources](#) Keith Doucette, The Canadian Press, May 27.
- vii. [Comment from Dr Bruce McIvor](#), Senior partner, First Peoples Law.

**c. Listen**

- i. [Inuit Approaches to Conversation and Conflict Resolution](#) on CBC Ideas.