

Living Into Right Relations – September 2025

Hello, and welcome back!

As is always the case in September, we find ourselves with lots of events and opportunities to choose from for personal and communal learning and growth: the annual Water Walk happens mid-month; there are 2 Pow Wows along the Grand and multiple art exhibits, to mention just a few.

September also includes the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day to remember and reflect on the truths we need to know and accept, and the ongoing responsibility to work towards a more just future in our country. How might you participate in this reflective day? Section 1 offers ideas and information available to date. I expect you'll find more information in your community closer to Sept 30. Remember - wear orange!

One major event on September 30 we'd like to draw to your attention is the reopening of the Mohawk Institute in Brantford as an historic and educational site. Few of the former residential schools are still standing in Canada. The decision and work to maintain and repurpose "The Mush Hole" in this way is a labour of love and dedication to "truth-telling, remembrance, education and reconciliation." A newly released book about life at the Mohawk Institute called [Behind the Bricks](#) could be a challenging but powerful companion to a visit there.

May you walk in good company,

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

We welcome relevant information if you'd like to pass it our way. Thanks!

1. September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

- a. **Sept. 15 - 26 Orange Shirt Day Virtual Programming.** Woodland Cultural Centre. Info and registration for programs for schools and organizations [here](#).
- b. **Sept. 22 - 26** Register now for [Lunch and Learns](#) from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Thanks, Ron Flaming.
- c. **Sat, Sept. 27, 11:00 am - 4:00 p.m.** Brantford Native Housing's [4th Annual Truth and Reconciliation Event](#). 51 Lynnwood Dr, Brantford.
- d. **Sun. Sept. 28.** [Orange Shirt Sunday](#), Resources from The United Church of Canada. Another worship resource: [A Christian Prayer of Lament on the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation](#) Thank you, Ron Flaming.
- e. **Tues, Sept. 30 7 a.m.-2 p.m.** [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation | Office of Indigenous Relations](#). This link includes background info and the program for events at UW for the UW community..
- f. **Tues, Sept. 30, 10 a.m.** Annual Every Child Matters Walk, Kitchener. Healing of the

Seven Generations. From 300 Frederick St. to Victoria Park/Willow Park Clock Tower. Please check their [website](#) or [Facebook](#) pages for info closer to the date.

- g. **Tues, Sept. 30, [Woodland Cultural Centre Announces Grand Reopening](#)** of the Mohawk Institute Residential School as an Interpretive Historic Site and Educational Resource. 184 Mohawk St. Brantford. Details and tickets [here](#).
- h. **Tues, Sept. 30, 3-4:30 p.m. [Parliament Hill event](#)**. Scroll down for online link information.
- i. **Tues, Sep 30, 3:30-5:30 p.m. [Truth & Reconciliation Day After-School Event](#)**, Civic Museum, 52 Norfolk Street, Guelph.

2. Land Back

- a. **[O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#)** - at Willow River Centre, 243 King St., Kitchener. Read their Facebook posts. Sponsoring two upcoming events:
 - i. **Sat, Sept. 20, 10a.m.-2p.m. [Gathered Leaves Market](#)** at Willow River Centre.
 - ii. **Sun, Sept. 21, 6-8 p.m. [Sacred Fire & Sacred Stories](#)** at Victoria Park Playground, Courtland Ave, Kitchener.
 - iii. How to support? [Support us | O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#).

3. Occasional Arts Section

- a. **Sep 18, 2025 - Jan 4, 2026 [Unsettling Conservation Collective: Reworldings](#)**. Art Gallery of Guelph, 358 Gordon Street, Guelph. Cost: Free, donations appreciated.
- b. **Until Sept. 30 Indigenous Art 2025: 50th Annual Juried Exhibition** at Woodland Cultural Centre, 184 Mohawk St. Brantford. Read more [here](#).
- c. **Until Dec 14 [Currents of Change: Inspiring Action along the Grand River](#)** McDougall Cottage, 89 Grand Ave. S., Cambridge. Cost: By donation.
- d. **Fri, Oct 3, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. [MMIWG2S Art Memorial Installation and Recognition](#)**. SW Sunroom, Southwest Community Library, 100 Rosenberg Way, Kitchener.
- e. **Until Oct 5, 2025 [Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun Lets'lo:tsehtun: Floor Opener](#)** Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, 101 Queen St. N, Kitchener. Free, donation encouraged.

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. Events listing [here](#).
- b. **Sat, Sep 13, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. [Children's Fall Harvest Festival](#)** at The Children's Garden Project at Gage Park, 1000 Main St E, Hamilton. Free.

- c. **Thurs, Sept. 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** Hamilton Public Library Author Series. Join [Norma Jacobs, Longhouse Faith-keeper and Elder](#) as she shares from her new book *Odagahodhes: Reflecting on our Journeys*. Central Library - Hamilton room. Free and open to all. Presented in partnership with the City of Hamilton's Indigenous Relations Office.
- d. **Sun, Sept 21 to Sat, Sept, 27.** [All Nations Grand River Water Walk](#). Background and in-depth information on their website and updates on their [Facebook](#) page.
 - **Sun. Sept. 21, 7 a.m. Opening Ceremony** at Dufferin County Rd Trail. See map and details [here](#) All welcome!
- e. **Tues, Sept. 23, 6-8:30 p.m.** [Blanket Exercise - Reconciliation Through Education and Understanding](#). Waterloo Public Library, Main Branch, James J. Brown Auditorium, 35 Albert St, Waterloo. Free.
- f. **Wed, Sept. 24 12-2 p.m.** Grandmothers' Tea at Five Oaks Retreat Centre, 1 Bethel Road, Brantford. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Contact Joan (519-754-8786) or Shirley (519-753-5789) for more information.
- g. **Thurs, Sept 25, 7-9 p.m.** [Walking Together: Dr. Niigaan Sinclair on Truth and Reconciliation](#). Online. All welcome. Register through the link. Sponsored by [HIP](#) and [Rotary District 5370](#).
- h. **Sat, Sept. 27, 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.** [Gidinawendamin/Ska'nikú•lát annual Pow Wow](#) Warrior Field, 220 Columbia St W, Waterloo. Free.
- i. **Sat, Sept. 27, noon-6 p.m.** [11th Annual Nurturing Our Roots Traditional Pow Wow](#). Butler's Barracks , Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- j. **Mon, Sept. 29, 1:30-2:30.** [Nations Uniting](#) Sharing Circle - To join this event and be part of their mailing list contact Rhonda Johns at nations.uniting@gmail.com.
- k. **Mon. Sept. 29 and Wed. Oct 2, 7-9 p.m.** [Community-powered Decolonization: Collective Strategies](#) with Sarah Augustine and friends. Register through the link.
 - **Sept 29** with Mennonite Action at Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo.
 - **Oct 1** with Adrian Jacobs at Shantz Mennonite Church, Baden.
- l. **Mon, Sept. 29, 7-7:45 p.m., and Mon., Oct. 20, 7:45 p.m.** [Valley of the Birdtail](#) book study. [Feather & Cross](#) will be hosting two short discussions via Zoom to talk about themes and content informally. See attached poster.
- m. **Thurs, Oct. 2. 4:30-6:30 p.m.** with Adrian Jacobs, Rick Hill and Daniel Coleman. Redeemer University. Details unavailable at time of publishing. Check the University website closer to the date.
- n. **Sat, Oct. 4, 9:45 a.m.-4 p.m.** [A Walk Towards Truth](#) A reflective fundraising walk for Settlers to honour Indigenous survivors, families and communities. Start location 188 Mohawk St., Brantford.
- o. **Sat, Oct. 4, 2-4 p.m.** [Indigenous Sharing Circle with Kelly Welch](#). CH Meeting Room, Country Hills Library, 1500 Block Line Rd, Kitchener. Free.
- p. **Mon. Oct 6, 2 & 7 p.m.** The Concerned Lay Catholics' Indigenous Teachings Book study. [Moon of the Crusted Snow](#). Waubgeshig Rice, Online, facilitated by Donna McGreal. For more information contact concernedlaycatholics@gmail.com.
- q. Other events in your area may be found on [Eventbrite](#).

On the radar

- r. **Fri, Oct. 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** [Meet the Authors - Valley of the Birdtail](#). A moderated conversation with the authors of this important book. Free event at Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo. Register through the link to reserve a seat. Sponsored by local Living Into Right Relations network. To purchase the book at a reduced rate contact Gladys Bender (gladysbender@hotmail.com).

5. Strawberry Thanksgiving and Communion.

To learn more about this movement and ways to engage more deeply, check out these opportunities.

- a. **Wed, Sept. 24, 10-11:30 a.m.** [Introduction to Strawberry Thanksgiving and Communion](#) An online gathering organized by the United Church of Canada regional minister for right relations and social justice. Note: Strawberry Thanksgiving and Communion (STC) is an ecumenical movement and all are welcome to attend the event. STC will be discussed here with a view to the United Church context. Register through the link. See the PDF attached to the email for more details.
- b. **Hearts Exchanged** - An 8-month online foundational workshop designed for those starting the journey of reconciliation. We will meet on Thursday at 7-9pm (EST) in the next 8 months on Oct 9, Nov 6, Dec 4, Jan 8, Feb 5, Mar 2, Apr 2 and May 7. [Sign up here](#) by **September 26** and mention "**STC 2026**" to be in this ecumenical cohort.
- c. **Organizing for Repair** - A 6-session online learning series aimed to equip us to engage our faith communities in ongoing ways in response to Adrian Jacob's invitation to the Spiritual Covenant (See attached PDF). Drawing on teachings by Sarah Augustine and experiences of local churches and community groups, this series is for churches or community groups ready to take tangible action but needing a bit of help to get organized. We will meet on 6 Thursday evenings at 7-8:30pm (EST) on Nov 6, Nov 27, Jan 15, Feb 12, Mar 12 and Apr 9. [Check this link](#) for more info and to sign up.

6. Good Reads, News and Views

a. Reads

- i. [Indigenous Rights in One Minute: What You Need to Know to Talk Reconciliation](#) Lawyer and historian Bruce McIvor provides concise, plain answers to 100 essential questions being asked by Canadians across the country about fulfilling Canada's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Published May 2025.
- ii. [21 Things You Need to Know about Indigenous Self-government](#). By Bob Joseph Released on September 2. A related blog post from the author [How many self-government agreements are there?](#)
- iii. [52 Ways to Reconcile: How to Walk with Indigenous Peoples on the Path to Healing](#) by David Alexander Robertson.

- iv. [Nothing Will Save Us: A Theology of Immeasurable Life](#) by David C.L. Driedger, pastor, First Mennonite Church, Winnipeg.
- v. [First Peoples Law Reading Lists](#): Indigenous Rights, Residential Schools, TRC, memoirs, etc.

b. News

- i. [Ontario pipeline corridor proposal faces pushback over lack of Indigenous consultation, environmental risks](#) CBC Faith Greco.
- ii. [Missing and murdered Indigenous men and boys cases need more attention. That's why I started tracking them.](#) CBC News Alaya McIvor.
- iii. [Biidaajimowin | News from the Centre](#) Aug. 13.

c. Views

- i. [Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands. Strong Hearts](#) Anglican Church of Canada (2019).