

Living Into Right Relations – December 2025

Hello, everyone.

My apologies for the delay this month. I had a little accident at a curling rink that set me back a bit! So grateful for supportive friends and family, and patient LIRR readers!

If you're looking for ways to live into right relations with your financial choices or your time, Sections 1 and 2 have a short list of ideas to consider from a sample of local to national organizations. If there are organizations you would like us to know about, please email us. Thank you!

This year there are also some reflective practices related to Truth and Reconciliation offered by some churches for the Advent season. These are found in section 4. Even though Advent is well underway, there's still plenty of time left!

Blessings on your Christmas and holiday time,

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

1. Organizations supporting Indigenous communities or programs

- a. Support a local Christmas gift program, for eg., [Healing of the Seven Generations](#), and [Crow Shield Lodge](#) in Kitchener. (See newspaper article about Crow Shield Lodge in Section 7b below).
- b. Volunteer or donate at a local Indigenous organization, for eg., [Anishnabeg Outreach](#).
- c. [Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Fund - Unite for Change](#). Support Indigenous-led organizations across Canada through [CanadaHelps](#).
- d. [Water First](#): not an Indigenous-led organization, but they partner with Indigenous communities to train water operators and support access to clean drinking water. You may be able to double your gift through donor matching.
- e. Support Indigenous charitable organizations such as [Indspire](#).
- f. Shop online to support Indigenous online stores and vendors such as [Niska Artisans](#) (MCCO, Timmins), [Sapling and Flint](#), (Ohsweken) and [aaniin](#) (Toronto).
- g. Various church denominations have Gift Catalogues that include programs impacting Indigenous people. For eg., United Church's [Gifts with Vision](#) catalogue.

2. Indigenous Holiday Markets 2025

- a. **Sun, Dec 14, 2-6 pm**, - [Holiday Indigenous Art Market](#) Uptown Waterloo Business Improvement Area, 22 Willow St., Waterloo.
- b. **Sun, Dec 21, 10 am-4 pm**, [Grinchmas Market](#), Six Nations Community Hall, 1738 4th Line, Ohsweken.

This is just a sampling. Check your area for similar events.

3. Land Back

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - at Willow River Centre, 243 St., Kitchener.
 - i. Read their Facebook posts.
 - ii. Look for Willow River Centre events in the “Learning” section below.
 - iii. How to support? [Support us | O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#).
- b. A Land Back first, in the US. [For the first time, Catholic sisters return land to a Tribal nation](#). Thanks, Annette Dekker.

4. Advent publications from United and Anglican Churches:

- a. Anglican Church of Canada [Alongside Hope Advent prayers and reflections](#) by Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred.
- b. United Church of Canada [Living Into Right Relations Nov 2025](#), includes a prayer for Sun Dec 14, marking the 10th anniversary of the publication of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, and a longest night service with a theme of “Making Things Right.”

5. Occasional Arts Section

- a. **Sat, Dec 13, 7 pm-8:30 pm**. [Celebrating mihko kiskisiwin](#): Indigenous Poets Society Anthology Launch. At Art Not Shame, 119 Wyndham St N, Guelph. Cost: from \$17.31.
- b. **To Dec 14**. [Currents of Change - Waterloo Region Museum](#) McDougall Cottage, 89 Grand Ave. S., Cambridge.
- c. **To Jan 4**. [Metamorphoses: Visions of Antiquity in the Modern Era](#) including works by Kent Monkman. Art Gallery of Hamilton, 1280 Main Street West, Hamilton.
- d. **To Jan 4**. [Homer Watson Gallery](#) juried show. Includes a piece inspired by last year's [Two Row on the Grand](#) Paddle event!

- e. **To Jan 4.** [Unsettling Conservation Collective: Reworldings](#). Art Gallery of Guelph, 358 Gordon St., Guelph. Free, donations appreciated.
- f. [Woodland Cultural Centre Exhibitions - Indigenous Artists](#)
 - i. **To Feb 24.** Familial Waters: A Solo Exhibition by Dianne Brown Green.
 - ii. **To Spring 2026,** Tsi Non:we Entewaha'hara'ne (Our Path Forward) R.G. MILLER: Located inside the Mohawk Institute, 184 Mohawk St, Brantford.

6. Learning at home and connecting in person

- a. *SUGARCANE* is a film documenting the Williams Lake First Nation investigation of St Joseph's Mission, a Catholic run boarding school in Canada. **From now until Jan 31, communities of faith are invited to host a FREE screening of the film.** This program encourages Christians, and all people of faith, to engage in dialogue around truth telling and repair. [Learn more about the screening tour here.](#) Thank you, Henriëtte Thompson.
- b. Mohawk Institute, 184 Mohawk St, Brantford, mid-November: [visiting information update](#).
- c. Six Nations Polytechnic lunch and learn sessions are back this month with the Christmas paint party! Registration is required. Here are the links for more info on the sessions and how to register.

Wed, Dec 10, 12-1 pm. [Ohsweken campus](#). 2160 4th Line Rd., Ohsweken.

Wed, Dec 17, 11:30 am-12:30 pm. [Brantford Campus](#) 411 Elgin St., Brantford.
- d. **Sat, Dec 20, 8:00 am.** [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.
- e. **Sun, Dec 21, 5:30-9:30 pm.** (Doors open at 5 p.m.) [Winter Solstice Feast](#) Willow River Park Pavilion, 80 Schneider St, Kitchener. Sponsored by [Willow River Centre](#).
- f. **Mon, Jan 5, 2-3:30 and 7-8:30 pm.** Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton "Listening to Indigenous Voices" online book study, facilitated by Donna McGreal. Dec title: [Moon of the Turning Leaves](#) by Waubgeshig Rice. Here is an [interview with the author](#). To register and for more information email dwmcgreal@gmail.com.
- g. Other events in your area may be found on [Eventbrite](#).

On the radar

- h. [Imagine a Canada](#) invites Canadian youth from K-G12 and CÉGEP to submit original project ideas or art/essay pieces that express their vision of a Canada reconciled. Deadline Jan 23, 2026.

7. Good Reads, News and Views

a. Reads

- i. [Theory of Water: Nishnaabe Maps to the Times Ahead](#) by [Leanne Betasamosake Simpson](#). Reimagining relationships with water through an Indigenous worldview. Winner of the 2025 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Award for non-fiction.
- ii. [We Survived the Night](#) by [Julian Brave NoiseCat](#). Published in October this year. Thank you, Nancy Levy.
- iii. [Small Ceremonies](#) by [Kyle Edwards](#) won the 2025 Governor General's Literary Award for fiction.
- iv. [Journey from FiCrowsher River, a Celebration of the Spirituality of a People through the life of Stan McKay](#). 1994. Thank you, Janet Holland.

b. News

- i. [Resistance to Crow Shield Lodge in Guelph](#) CBC [Kate Bueckert](#), Nov. 14.
- ii. [Indigenous contracting program funnels billions to Ottawa firms](#) Patti Sonntag, APTN, Nov 3.
- iii. [The Indigenous land claim that could override private property rights](#) The Decibel, CBC, Nov 11, 2025.
- iv. [Mamakwa: It's an excuse to use tariffs, to use nationalism, to bulldoze through those treaty rights'](#) MPP Sol Mamakwa's criticism of major projects legislation. [Thomas Desormeaux](#) iPolitics, Nov 24.
- v. Niigaan Sinclair on Thomas King [Falling from the nest](#) Biidaajimowin. News from the Centre, Winnipeg Free Press, Nov 26.
- vi. KAIROS COP30 delegation [Women, Indigenous and youth leaders unite for climate justice at COP30](#).
- vii. [Bill S-2 and the Second Generation Cut Off](#) Patricia Lawrence, First Nations Law.

c. Views

- i. [Land Back for the People](#) podcast. Thanks, Beverly McNabb.