

Living Into Right Relations – January 2026

Hello, friends, and happy new year!

I want to start the year by thanking Lorna, Bev and Henriëtte who so generously help to find and distill relevant information for this newsletter so that it's clear and useful for you.

I first became aware of how little I knew of Indigenous and settler history when I read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report in 2015. Over time, people I met at various events started sending me news and resources for learning. This newsletter grew out of that connection, rooted in a desire to continue the conversation and to take up the challenge and invitation of living into right relations.

This is a whole group effort. None of us do this in isolation. Thanks to all in this group of readers who send helpful information for sharing. And thanks to all for your engagement.

May we walk in good company,

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

1. Land Back

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - at Willow River Centre, 243 King St., Kitchener.
 - i. Read their Facebook posts.
 - ii. How to support? [Support us | O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#).

2. Highlighting Indigenous-led or -focused initiatives and organizations: Courses on Indigenous/Canadian history and current issues.

For a deeper dive into relearning Indigenous/Canadian history, you might look at these free online public education courses offered by different universities. Consider following the course with a friend or small group to increase engagement.

- a. [Indigenous Canada](#) offered by the University of Alberta (Coursera).
- b. [Land Back](#) offered by [Yellowhead Institute](#), Toronto Metropolitan University.
- c. [Introduction to Indigenous Matters](#), Wilfrid Laurier University. Read more [here](#).

3. Arts

- a. [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) by R.G. Miller: Mohawk Institute, 184 Mohawk St, Brantford.

- b. **To Mar 06, 2026.** [Meryl McMaster: Bloodline](#) McMaster Museum of Art, 1280 Main Street West, Hamilton. Opening reception Thurs, Jan 29, 5-8 p.m. Exhibit circulating from The McMichael Collection.
- c. **To May 3, 2026** [Kananginak Pootoogook: Printing The Inuit World](#). Art Gallery of Guelph, 358 Gordon St., Guelph. Free, donations appreciated.

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, Jan 17, 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.
- c. **Sat, Jan 17, 7:30 p.m.** [Julian Taylor & Logan Staats](#) FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, Partridge Hall, 250 St. Paul St., St. Catharines.
- d. **Sun, Jan. 18, 2-4:30 p.m.** Free showing of the award-winning documentary, [Sugarcane](#), Listowel Mennonite Church, 465 Maitland Ave. S, Listowel. For further information, contact Nancy Frey at 519-291-2350. Snow date, Sun, Jan. 25.
- e. **Tues, Jan 20, 2-3:30 p.m.** Hamilton Reconciliation Learning Circle Online: Looking at self-education possibilities guided by David A. Robertson's book [52 Ways to Reconcile](#). For more information and the link to join online, email Pam Byers at pam.awhamilton@gmail.com.
- f. **Mon, Jan 26, 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.
- g. **Mon, Jan 26, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Indigenous Drumming and Sharing Circle with Kelly Welch. Grand River Stanley Park Library, 175 Indian Rd, Kitchener. Register [here](#).
- h. **Wed, Jan 28, 12-2** Grandmothers' Tea at Nations Uniting, 1652 Chiefswood Rd, Ohsweken. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Contact Joan (519-754-8786) or Shirley (519-753-5789) for more information.
- i. **Mon, Feb 2, 2-3:30 and 7-8:30 p.m.** RC Diocese of Hamilton "Listening to Indigenous Voices" online book study. [The Knowing](#) by [Tanya Talaga](#). Search for the related TV series on [CBC Gem](#). Facilitated by Donna McGreal. To register and for more information contact dwmcgreal@gmail.com.
- j. **Mon, Feb 2, 3-4:15 p.m.** Waterloo Indigenous Speaker Series presents [Kim Tailbear](#). Register [here](#).
- k. Other events in your area may be found on [Eventbrite](#).

On the radar

- I. **Sat, Feb 21, 7-9 p.m.** [Walking Through the Fire - Visual Album](#) Free screening at Shantz Mennonite Church, Baden. Reserve seats [here](#). Donations welcome at the door.

5. Good Reads, News, Views and Podcasts

a. Reads

- i. From Grandmothers' Voice blog: [When David Frum Calls Indigenous Rights a "Misstep," He Is Defending Colonialism](#). Written in response to this article [Good Intentions Gone Bad](#) by [David Frum](#), The Atlantic, Dec 27, 2025.
- ii. [Danger Eagle](#) - a new children's book by [Jesse Wente](#); illustrated by [Shaikara David](#).
- iii. [11 Things You Should Know About Indigenous Oral Traditions](#) from Indigenous Corporate Training Inc.
- iv. [She Is Wise Magazine](#), Ontario Native Women's Association.

b. News

- i. [2025 Indigenous Rights Year in Review](#) First Peoples Law reviews five major aspects of Indigenous rights impacted in 2025.
- ii. [Biidaajimowin | News from the Centre](#) Winning Free Press, Dec 17, 2025. Curated by Nigaan Sinclair. Discussion about Métis identity conflict under section entitled "Five Stories on Turtle Island".
- iii. [Chief of Chippewas of the Thames First Nation calling for regional economic strategy with London, neighbouring communities](#) CTV Jan 2, Daryl Newcombe.
- iv. [Respect our rights when developing Ontario's minerals: First Nations](#) Sudbury Star, Dec 28.

c. Views

- i. [Missing Matoaka](#) Indigenous retelling of the Pocahontas story, an alternative screenplay synched with the Disney film "Pocahontas". How to do it: listen online for free on SoundCloud while playing "Pocahontas" on mute. Audio link here: <https://share.google/nSFLoH6NN33o1mcIR>.
- ii. Watch for this film: [Meadowlarks](#).