

## Living Into Right Relations – January 2023

Hello,

Happy belated New Year! I have been a bit slow off the mark this month. My apologies!

January is often considered a time of reflection on the past and thinking about the future. This month there are several items along this theme in relation to reconciliation: the webinar on Jan 13 and the "**Reads**" section come to mind.

I encourage you to read the links related to 1492 Land Back Lane. It is a situation that can end up below our radar easily because it's in the news only infrequently. There have been significant events in the past month or so and another day in court happening this month.

I also want to draw your attention to the [Grand River Community Play Project](#). I only just heard about it in the past month but it is already well underway. If you love community theatre and love the Grand this might capture your imagination. There's time to get involved, since the play itself is planned for next year, 2024.

Thank you for your continued engagement with living into right relations. As always, let me know if there are events or materials of interest that you would like to send my way.

Thank you,

Nancy ([nancydykstra@gmail.com](mailto:nancydykstra@gmail.com))

### 1. Book Study: Valley of the Birdtail: An Indian Reserve, a White Town and the Road to Reconciliation

Last year we had a couple of book studies, as we do from time to time. While we're not doing one ourselves, here's an option for this year, for those looking for a book to read with a group. Hosted by Redeemer Church, Toronto. An excerpt from their post: We invite you to [buy the book](#) — a great read — and then attend a three-part book study. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the impact of the Indian Act and residential schools on Indigenous people and how the two communities began the journey of reconciliation together.

**Online Mondays, Jan. 16, 23, 30 7-8 p.m.** See info and registration [here](#).

**In-person at Redeemer Church Sundays, Jan. 15, 22, 29.** Info and registration [here](#).

### 2. Land Back

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - read their Facebook posts for events and ways to support

b. [1492 Land Back Lane](#)

**News**

- i. In mid-December a judge granted a permanent injunction to Foxgate Development, once again making the presence of the people on the site of LandBack Lane illegal. Read the recent [CBC article here](#) and follow links within the article to trace the recent history of the controversy. See the: [Two Row Times article here](#). Please keep this situation in your sights.
- ii. Jan 23 - next court date in ongoing court discussion over Skylar Williams' sentencing for charges of mischief and failing to comply with an undertaking. The judge has asked to hear from a representative of the Six Nations' Elected Council. This will take place at the Cayuga courthouse on Jan 23. If you are able to attend it would be a show of support and also a chance to learn more about the issue. News article here: [A judge is out to 'find the truth' about land near Six Nations. part of Skylar Williams sentencing hearing](#) CBC.

**Other supportive actions**

- iii. **Friday Lunches for 1492 LandBack Lane.** Next delivery date is Jan. 27. Cash donations can be made through [Parkminster United Church](#). Please identify your donation as 1492 LandBack Lane. For more info or to lend a hand, contact me at [nancydykstra@gmail.com](mailto:nancydykstra@gmail.com). Thank you!
- iv. Support their [legal defense fund](#).

### 3. Learning at home and events

- a. **Jan 4** was the first [National Ribbon Skirt Day](#). [Understanding history, protocol important for allies who want to wear ribbon skirts: Advocates](#) CBC
- b. **Jan. 11 &, 25, 6-8p.m.** [Men's Sharing Circle](#), McDougall Cottage, Crow Shield Lodge events
- c. **Jan. 13, 7 p.m.** Webinar: [Moving past the 94, what lies ahead?](#) Co-sponsored by Circles for Reconciliation, Reconciliation Thunder, and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Since 2015, the "R" word (Reconciliation) has been introduced, explored, tested, contested, and redefined many times. The question remains: Do we have reason to be hopeful that the 'R' word will lead us to a better future? Panel: Suzanne Carrière, Canada's first Indigenous citizenship judge; Skye Sommerhalder, City of Toronto Indigenous Affairs Office; Muna Gaye, City of Toronto Newcomer Office; Jill Andrew, MPP. Register through the link above.
- d. **DEADLINE: Jan. 20** [Imagine a Canada](#) The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) is inviting youth across Canada to Imagine a Canada through the lens of Reconciliation. 2 streams: Arts and Essay; and community projects. For families, classes from K-12. Could be a really wonderful Sunday School or youth group program. See link for ideas and application details. Thanks, Henriette Thompson.

- e. **Jan. 23, 3-5pm and Feb. 27, 2-5pm** [Let's Co-Create: Two-Eyed Seeing Approaches to Building Community Relations](#). A two-part workshop series focused on knowledge exchange and dialogue between Black and Indigenous communities and the City of Kitchener. Organized by Toronto Metropolitan University and Wilfrid Laurier University, in partnership with local Black and Indigenous communities and staff from the City of Kitchener.
- f. **Jan. 25, Noon-2p.m.** [Nations Uniting](#) Grandmothers Tea potluck lunch hosted by St Thomas Anglican Church, 110 Francis St., Cambridge. Call 1-519-623-5400 for more information.
- g. **Jan. 26, 7p.m.** free screening of [Colonization Road](#), an exploration of the effects of road building by settlers on Indigenous land and culture. Zion United Church, 215 Peel St., New Hamburg. Hosted by The Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Relationships. The church requires that face masks be worn. Registration is not necessary. PDF attached to email. Online teacher resource [here](#).
- h. **Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.** [2022-23 DT Concert Series](#) presents [Shawnee Kish](#) Dominion Telegraph Event Centre in Paris, ON
- i. **To April 16** [Dibaajimowin: Stories from this Land - Waterloo Region Museum](#)
- j. Lots of other events online through [Eventbrite](#).

#### 4. Good Reads, News and Views

##### a. Reads

- i. [Canadian public opinion about Indigenous Peoples and reconciliation](#) a report from Environics based on surveys conducted in 2021. Thanks for drawing it to our attention, Henriette Thompson
- ii. [How Idle No More transformed Canada](#) CBC radio. This short history of the impact of Idle-No-More mainly on Indigenous people may be an interesting accompaniment to ii. above, which looks primarily at non-indigenous public opinion.
- iii. [The Theory of Crows](#) David A Robertson. See CBC Books [article](#)

##### b. News

- i. [Demonstrators block Winnipeg landfill to demand search for more MMIWG](#) APTN
- ii. [Quebec court finds province, Canada 'dishonourable' on Indigenous policing](#) APTN
- iii. [Learning, cooking, fundraising: Stratford students take it all in for Indigenous food event](#) The Record

##### c. Views

- i. [Richard Wagamese's novel on homelessness to become a movie](#). APTN Ragged Company - set to begin filming this year. Watch for it!
- ii. [Bones of Crows](#) - very well received at TIFF. I don't know when it's coming; it appears it is currently making screening rounds and will be released on CBC and APTN as a mini-series. Please let me know if you hear or know more!