

## Living Into Right Relations – March 2021

Hello,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying these lengthening days!

This email group started several years ago with a goal of keeping the TRC conversation going. We have had book studies, movie nights, hosted a KAIROS blanket exercise and Allyship workshops among other things. Last month I tried something new. I put out an invitation for people interested in learning more about 1492LandBack Lane to create a little “pop-up” learning group. Three of us have been meeting weekly for a month now. While it’s tiny it turns out that 3 is a great size! In the hour that we’ve given to it each week we can each talk about what we know and the questions we have. In the week between we learn a bit more and bring it back. It’s motivating; we are responsible to each other for our learning which for me, makes the difference between having the questions and finding the answers. And it will end when we decide to end it. I like it!

There are about 60 of us in this email group now. If there is something you want to learn more about and this format appeals to you, I could also put your question out to the whole group. Just let me know. It’s possible that 1 or 2 others might be interested, too. That’s all you need to do a little “pop-up” learning.

Bill C-15 anyone?

Stay safe everyone,

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

1. **COVID outbreak at Six Nations.** Scott Knarr alerted us to the extremely concerning spike of cases at Six Nations this past week. Prayer would be welcome.

**A friend from Six Nations wrote this to me on Friday (Feb. 26):**

*Yes, we have had our numbers increase, more so now than in the first wave last spring. On a positive note we have had our residents in long term care and their staff, our Emergency Medical Services and our first responders vaccinated recently. I expect those of us who are over 60 years of age to have our vaccines within the next few weeks. It's very trying for those who live in homes with several generations, with limited access to running water, and those who have limited funds and food storage space who cannot stock up on food for weeks at a time. Our public schools will remain closed until September. Folks are supporting each other in ways that we can, safely. Because we are a small closed community, we all feel the stress of the times.*

## 2. From [1492 Land Back Lane](#) (see also Learning at Home section 4 e and f)

- a. A few links from the 1492 facebook page:
  - i.Until March 6 [1492 Land Back Lane Online Auction](#)
  - ii.[A Digital Short | Stories from 1492 | "What is the end to this?" Land Back!](#) Part of a series of video interviews with Sklyer Williams. Longer version [here](#)
- b. Supportive actions from the ecumenical group
  - i.**Friday Lunches for 1492 LandBack Lane.** They are continuing into the spring and we welcome your support! Please consider donating food or funds. We have a core of about 5 worker bees and would love more. Cash donations can be made through [Parkminster United Church](#). Identify your donation as 1492 LandBack Lane. Our next food delivery date is Fri., April 2. For more info contact me at [nancydykstra@gmail.com](mailto:nancydykstra@gmail.com)
  - ii.[Background Information Tool Kit:](#)

## 3. [Bill C-15 An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) Worth learning about and understanding, it is getting wide attention and discussion. The official description is this: Bill C-15 would require the Government of Canada, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to prepare an action plan that includes measures to address injustices, combat prejudice and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against Indigenous people. Here's the [government backgrounder](#).

There are differing opinions about the Bill. The United Church of Canada has not signed on to the ecumenical campaign in support of the Bill, nor is it opposing, pending more community discernment. This posting from the United Church outlines [who is for and against and some information about why](#). An additional article opposing the Bill is linked [here](#). More learning opportunities in 4d below.

## 4. Learning at home

- a. Mar. 2, 7-8pm [Food Sovereignty for First Nations, Métis, & Inuit Peoples on Turtle Island](#) online through Martin Luther University College. Join Garrison McCleary and Dave Skene as they discuss their work toward the goal of Food Sovereignty in the Kitchener-Waterloo corner of the Haldimand Tract. Garrison McCleary teaches at Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning. Dave Skene serves as Co-executive Director of White Owl Native Ancestry Association. Both also teach at MLUC. Free with registration.
- b. Mar. 4, 10am-12pm OR Mar. 5, 1-3pm Interactive workshop from [Wellbeing Waterloo Region Niindawemginiduk Series: Turtle Island 101- Roads that Lead to UNDRIP](#) We will focus on the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as it is now being incorporated into Canadian Law. Participants will also be introduced to a matrix of legislations, commissions, reports that reflect particular moments in history that intersect today so that participants can feel more confident working with and listening to the needs of local Indigenous Peoples, Agencies, Organizations, Nations, and Communities.

**c. Mar. 4, 7:30 pm (EST) Rights Before Reconciliation** [Tanya Talaga](#), online event through Mir Centre for Peace and Indigenous Services at Selkirk College. It has been five years since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission issued its groundbreaking report, one that promised sweeping changes. But is that what we are seeing? After Wet'suwet'en, Black Lives Matter, the Mi'kmaq fisheries dispute, and, delays on the implementation on a national action plan to help stop the genocide of our Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, where do we find hope? Tickets available through the [Capitol Theatre, Nelson](#) (Adult \$15, Senior \$10, Student \$5)

**d. Mar. 16, 7-9pm EST (6-8 Mountain) Bill C-15: Step forward or step back?**

Hearing different perspectives on the federal bill to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Organized by KAIROS Prairies North. All are welcome. Register [here](#).

**e. Mar. 20, 10 am - noon.** The [Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre](#) is hosting a series entitled [Introduction to Indigenous Lands and Issues in Canada](#). This is Session 2: **1492 Land Back Lane Land Conflict.** Ticketed event.

**f. Mar. 24 7pm Treaty as Sacred Covenant Storytelling** from MCEC - next episode - Sandi Boucher from Northern Ontario. This series has a wealth of resources and background information. Previous episodes and related resources are available [here](#). Last month's talk by Adrian Jacobs includes discussion on 1492 LandBack Lane. Thanks, Ron Flaming, for sending us this series. Free

**g. Events that we may have missed but are recorded and available:**

i.[From WLU: Indigenist Research Symposium Feb 10, 2021 and Indigenous Education Week 2020 "We are our stories"](#)

ii.[Samantha Brennan](#) speaking about Intercultural Collaboration and what she learned working with [Debajehmujig Theatre Group](#).

## 5. Books

Last month the Rupert Ross book *Dancing With Ghosts* was listed and I mentioned it was hard to find. Deb Siertsema has copies! If you'd like one please contact her at [debbiesiertsema@yahoo.com](mailto:debbiesiertsema@yahoo.com). Thanks, Deb!

### Two for Children

[Treaty Words](#) by [Aimée Craft](#) for kids 10 and up, illustrations by Kitchener artist Luke Swinson. Thanks, Bev McNabb

"We Are Water Protectors" [We Are Water Protectors](#)" by [Carole Lindstrom](#) and illustrated by Michaela Goade. [Listen to the author read the book here](#)