Living Into Right Relations – October 2026

Hello,

Yesterday was a long-awaited day for the people of Six Nations. Please linger on Section 1 and keep the Six Nations court case in your thoughts over the coming months and years.

As this Waterloo listing of Days of Significance among Indigenous communities shows, there are important dates all year long, and *many* of them in September, October and November. In Section 2, we highlight Treaties Recognition Week in the first week of November.

On September 30, the Remember Me Walk was held in downtown Kitchener; similar events were held in other communities along the watershed I expect. We listened to local Indigenous leaders. Various speakers told their stories and called on us to take specific local and broader actions. There was reference to Indigenous Watchdog, a report card that outlines progress (or lack thereof) of each of the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Speakers called on us to challenge governments and insist that action be taken..

October 4 was the National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People. Because of the timing of this newsletter, we did not identify related events this year. The report on the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women was presented in June of 2019, along with 231 Calls for Justice. The report and those calls are in Section 5a.

Look for friends on your journey,

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. Six Nations Land Claims Case Goes to Court October 5.

The wheels of justice grind slowly for Indigenous people in Canada. After decades of preparing legal counsel and expert witnesses, the Haldimand Tract litigation case of the Six Nations of the Grand River begins on Monday, October 5. The case concerns 950,000 acres of lands along the Grand River. These lands were promised to Six Nations of the Grand River in the Haldimand Proclamation of 1784. However, the lands failed to be protected, were improperly sold, or the proceeds of sold lands were mismanaged by the Crown. Here's a link to follow the case: Six Nations of the Grand River Litigation Proceedings. Thank you, Henriëtte Thompson.

See also 4.h below for Tekà:neren - Everything and Forever, a related art exhibit.

2. Treaties Recognition Week, Nov 1-7, 2026

a. Treaties Recognition Week Office of Indigenous Relations, U Waterloo.
b. The Treaty Map Yellowhead Institute, Toronto, with a teaching guide for Grade 8 through to post-secondary levels.
c. Treaties website, Ontario Government.
d. A Brief History of Treaties in Canada Indigenous Corporate Training Inc., July, 2025.
e. See also Section 6 below for books and videos.

3. Land Back

a. O:se Kenhionhata:tie - at Willow River Centre, 243 King St. E., Kitchener.
  i. Read their Facebook posts.
  ii. Look for other events in the Learning section below.
  iii. How to support? Support us | O:se Kenhionhata:tie.

4. Learning at home and connecting in person

a. Crow Shield Lodge (CSL) in Waterloo Region has a range of events related to education, healing, land stewardship and reconciliation. Events listed here.

b. Woodland Cultural Centre (WCC) houses a museum and an art gallery, hosts events and manages the former Mohawk Institute. 184 Mohawk St., Brantford.

  i. Art Gallery - **To Fri, Oct. 9** Indigenous Art 2026: 51st Annual Juried Exhibition
  ii. Former Mohawk Institute - now a museum, tours available through WCC.
  iii. **To Thurs, Oct 15**. Make Your Move Fundraiser to support the work of the Woodland Cultural Centre. Consider making this a concrete commitment towards Truth and Reconciliation with your family, workplace, school, etc.

c. **Register now: November Book Study Invitation:** Join us to discuss the book, MEND, at 7pm over four Monday evenings in November: November: 2, 9, 23 & 30. Author Jodi Spargur uses the story of Zaccheus to help us think in new ways about our place in our history and our relationship with Indigenous peoples. At Parkminster U.C., 275 Erb St. E., Waterloo. Register by emailing admin@parkuc.ca with your name, phone number, and email address. Thank you, Jeanne Foster.

Books available ($16). Contact Nancy at nancydykstra@gmail.com.

d. **To Jan 3, 2027.** Earth Bodies, at the Art Gallery of Guelph, 358 Gordon St., Guelph. Artists include Elizabeth Doxtater, Santee Smith, Carl Beam and others. Free, donations appreciated.

e. **Tues, Oct 6**, **2 and 7 p.m.** RC Diocese of Hamilton “Virtual Indigenous Book Study.” Ally Is a Verb : A Guide to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples by Rose LeMay – Taku River Tlingit First Nation, British Columbia. Facilitated by Donna McGreal. To register and for more information, contact dwmcgreal@gmail.com.

f. **Tues, Oct 6, 6-8 p.m** Hallman Lecture: First Nations rights and health system transformation, UWaterloo, Optometry Building, Room 1129, 200 Columbia St. W., Waterloo. Details and registration link here. Thank you, Naae Thorpe.

g. **Tues, Oct 6, 6:00-7:30 p.m.,** Sacred Fire Paint Night, Waterloo Public Library, Main Library, James J. Brown Auditorium, 35 Albert Street Waterloo. Adults. Free.

h. **To Wed, Oct 7.** Tekà:neren - Everything and Forever, Art on the Wall, Keffer Chapel, Martin Luther University College, 75 University Ave. W., Waterloo. Painting, beadwork and digital media celebrating the Haudenosaunee Creation Story and illustrating "The Long Trail for Seeking Justice," a new publication about the Haldimand Tract.

i. **Wed, Oct 7, 6-8 p.m.** (? not sure about the time) Crafts with Totah Rhea at Willow River Centre, 243 King St. E., Kitchener.

j. **Sat, Oct 10, 8 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.

k. **Sat, Oct 17, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.** Fall Festival, Chiefswood Park, 1037 Brant County Highway 54, Caledonia. All ages. Free.

l. **Sat, Oct 17, 1 p.m.** The Secret Path Cushion Concert with elders Kate Dickson & Shannon Thunderbird, 440 Locust St, Burlington. Purchase tickets here**.**

m. **Sat, Oct 17, 7:30 p.m.** She Carries the Song, Celeigh Cardinal (Cree), Mimi O'Bonsawin (W8banaki), and Lacey Hill (Oneida/Mohawk) perform with voice, story and song. 440 Locust St, Burlington. Purchase tickets here.

n. **Sat, Oct 24 - Sun, Oct 25, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (2-day event)** We Remember: Beaded Poppy Workshop with Naomi Smith (Chippewas of Nawash)**.** Guelph Civic Museum, 52 Norfolk St., Guelph. Tickets here ($257).

o. **Sat, Oct 24, 5-7 p.m.** Fundraiser in support of Namaygoosisagagun First Nation (Collins First Nation). After assurances this past summer that the fire was distant, their community burned to the ground with an hour's warning to evacuate. Donations of art, craft or services for the silent auction are welcome! Come, enjoy the music and support the auction. For more information contact Lana (admin@featherandcross.org) or Audrey (Coffeeopenmic@gmail.com) Location: Steinmann Mennonite Church, 1316 Snyder's Rd. W., Baden.

p. **Tues, Oct 27, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m**. film screening of The Nature of Healing, followed by a Q&A with survivors of the Mohawk Institute. At Grand River United Church, 1585 Mohawk Rd. Ohsweken. Light refreshments provided. Limited seating. Please RSVP to register: Rhonda Johns @ 519-445-2424 or nations.uniting@gmail.com.

q. **Wed, Oct 28, 12-2 p.m.** Grandmothers' Tea at St. Luke's Church - Smooth Town, 1246 Onondaga, Rd., Six Nations. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Bring your favourite dish and recipe to share. Dress in costume if you'd like! Remember to bring your plate, cup, and cutlery. For more information, contact Shirley at 519-753-5789.

r. **Fri, Oct 30 Deadline.** HIPY2Y - HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples) is looking for Indigenous and non-Indigenous student leaders, aged 15-17 interested in participating in the 2017 event in Edmonton at Metis Crossing May 9-15, 2027. The program, sponsored by Rotary International, aims to foster reconciliation, environmental stewardship, and cultural understanding among Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth across Canada. For more information go to the link or email info@hipally. Thank you, Jim Dawson.

s. Other events in your area may be found on Eventbrite.

On the radar

Mon, Nov 2, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. RC Diocese of Hamilton "Virtual Indigenous Book Study." Real Ones by katherena vermette, Michif (Red River Métis) – Treaty 1 Territory, Manitoba. Facilitated by Donna McGreal. To register and for more information contact dwmcgreal@gmail.com.

5. Good Reads, News, Views and Podcasts

a. **Reads**

i. Our Home and Treaty Land by Raymond C. Aldred and Matthew R. Anderson. The FriesenPress Bookstore.

ii. Why Do Indigenous Peoples Want Self-Government? Indigenous Corporate Training Inc., Feb, 2025.

iii. Elder Teachings - Na Me Res Thank you, Bev McNabb.

iv. Reclaiming Power and Place The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The Calls for Justice Native Women's Association of Canada.

b. **News**

i. Carney designates Pacific Link pipeline in the 'national interest', Keelan Jacobs, Oct 1. APTN News.

c. **Views**

i. Videos: Indigenous voices on treaties Gov't of Ontario.

ii. Residential Schools in Canada: A Timeline.

d. **Podcasts -** If you know of a podcast focused on Indigenous affairs, let us know! When we have new ones to share, we'll post them here.