Living Into Right Relations – November 2026

Hello,

Every year we try to highlight holiday gift-giving or donation options.To time information about local artisan markets just right, we'll aim to email you a 2026 holiday gift list toward the end of NovemberFor the moment, see Section 1. And, please pass along info you encounter about local Indigenous entrepreneurs or artists Thanks!

A special note, there is a local group in Waterloo Region raising funds to support the Namaygoosisagagun First Nation that was devastated by wildfire this summer. They need volunteers and donations to support their music event and silent auction coming up in downtown Kitchener on Sat, Dec 5. Please see Section 6 for their full invitation.

May we walk in good company,

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. Highlighting Indigenous-led gift markets.

a. **Sat, Nov 7, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.,** Peacemakers Quilt Club Christmas Sale, Six Nations Community Hall, 1738 4th Line, Ohsweken. Survivor + Veteran Quilts on display. Piecemakers Quilt Club Silent Auction, Local vendors: Corn soup, chili, hot dogs, baked goods Six Nations Christmas Sale crafts, quilts, & more! For more information email: dmartin2848@gmail.com.

b. **Sat, Nov 28, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** Holiday Arts Market at WIllow River Centre, 243 King St. E., Kitchener.

c. Niska Artisans online.

2. Land Back

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

b. **Six Nations Land Claims Trial** In October we announced the beginning of the long-awaited litigation against the Crown was beginning. We will use this space to offer ways to stay updated. Check the Six Nations website which has a link to watch proceedings. Reporter Donna Duric's articles on the proceedings can be found in the Two Row Times and at her link, here.

3. Responding to land back.

Churches and other groups are asking, “What follows the land acknowledgment? How to move forward?” Here are some suggested reading and related engagement ideas.

1. **MEND: An Invitation from Jesus to Return to Land-Based Repair** by Jodi Spargur. “...discover practical steps to embrace repair and experience the life-changing impact of following Jesus to repair the damage of the colonial project. “ Local orders available for pickup in the Waterloo region.

   Engagement:

   Mon, Nov 9, 7-9 p.m. Exploring the themes of MEND at Parkminster United Church, 275 Erb St E, Waterloo. Free public event with author and Jodi Spargur, including a Q&A. Together, we will explore how scripture, history, and Indigenous witness call us away from polite lament and toward tangible, land-based restoration. We hope that you learn about concrete next steps for you and your church on your journey to restore right relationships. Presented by New Leaf Press and MCCO. Donations accepted.

   Wed, Nov 11, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. For clergy and faith group leaders. A 2-Hour Lunch & Learn with author Jodi Spargur Walking the Jesus Way - from land acknowledgement to repair. In-person and online. Lunch provided. Register here by Nov 8.

2. **On Dismantling Settler Colonialism** by John Olthuis, Citizens for Public Justice. “... a powerful exploration of how the challenging work of dismantling settler colonialism can be a transformative and deeply healing process for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples alike.“

   Engagement:

   LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO ACTION (LATA) Resource From Land Acknowledgements to Action: will you join us? Citizens for Public Justice offers support for community groups and churches who want to move beyond land acknowledgements and are looking for support.

3. **A spiritual covenant with Churches and First Nations** by Adrian Jacobs. Published by Mennonite Central Committee..

   Engagement:

   Annual Strawberry Thanksgiving and Communion and follow-up connection and workshops. (June 12, 2027). Here is a link to the 2026 event.

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 listed here.

b. Woodland Cultural Centre houses a museum and an art gallery, hosts events and is the home of the former Mohawk Institute. 184 Mohawk St., Brantford.

    i. Former Mohawk Institute - now a museum, tours available.

c. **Thurs, Nov 5, 12-2:00 p.m.,** IAMINUK Presentation, Hamilton Public Library, 55 York Boulevard, Hamilton. Free.

d. **Fri, Nov 6, 1:00 p.m.,** Indigenous Veteran's Day Service, Eagles Among Us Monument: Battlefield House Museum & Park, 77 King St W, Stoney Creek.

e. **Fri, Nov 6, 1:30-3 p.m.** Refusing Empire: Individual and Collective Stories of Relation. First panel of the Lamine Diallo EDI Speaker Series for 2026-27. Online, hosted by Wilfrid Laurier University. Register here.

f. **Sun, Nov 8**, National Indigenous Veterans Day. Learn more here, and here.

g. **Fri, Nov 13, 6:30-8:30 a.m.,** Sacred Fire Site Opening- Sunrise Ceremony, 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener.

h. **Fri, Nov 13, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.,** Free film screening. Ninan Auassat - We, the Children, follows children from three different Indigenous nations through milestones of childhood: Atikamekw, Eeyou Cree and Innu. Cambridge Public Library, Old Post Office, 12 Water St S, Cambridge. Audience: older adults (50+).

i. **Sat, Nov 14, 1-2 p.m.,** Mohawk Creation Story with Cara Loft, Art Gallery of Guelph, 358 Gordon Street, Guelph. Free.

j. The Nature of Healing,the award winning documentary reveals the spoken truth of seven survivors of the Mohawk Institute. Two survivors will comment and answer questions after the film. Showing in two locations in November:

    Mon, Nov 16,10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Grand River United Church at 1585 Mohawk Rd., Ohsweken. Light Refreshments will be provided. Please contact Rhonda Johns @ 519-445-2424 OR nations.uniting@gmail.com. Please arrive on time.

    Wed, Nov 18, 7 p.m. at Waterloo North Mennonite Church, 100 Benjamin Rd., Waterloo. For more info, please contact Ralph Martin at rcmartin@uoguelph.ca.

k. **Sat, Nov 21, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.,** Louis Riel Day, Hamilton Public Library, 55 York Boulevard, Hamilton. Learn about Louis Riel, Métis society and culture through storytelling, music and interactive exhibits. Free

l. **To Nov 22,** Belonging, (1982-2024), Rosalie Favell, Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, 101 Queen St. North, Kitchener. Free, donations encouraged.

m. **Sat, Nov 27, 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.

n. **Wed, Nov 25, 12-2** p.m. Grandmothers' Tea at South Cayuga Community Church, 6182 Rainham Rd., Dunnville. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Bring your favourite

dish and recipe to share. Remember to bring your plate, cup, and cutlery. For more information contact Dawn at 905-774-5150.

o. **Sat, Dec 5, 5-8 p.m.** Fundraiser in support of Namaygoosisagagun First Nation (aka Collins First Nation). See below.

p. **Mon, Dec 7, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.** RC Diocese of Hamilton "Virtual Indigenous Book Study". *True Reconciliation: How to be a Force for Change* by The Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, member of the We Wai Kai Nation, Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Facilitated by Donna McGreal. To register and for more information contact dwmcgreal@gmail.com.

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

On the radar

r. Attention teachers and students: What Can Reconciliation in Canada Look Like? The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation 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 for submissions Jan 22, 2027 .

5. Good Reads, News and Podcasts

a. Reads

i. Recently Hon. Wab Kinew, Premier of Manitoba said it's "time to abolish the Indian Act".(Oct 26, CBC). Niigaan Sinclair's response was "Moving past the Indian Act will take time and trust" (Oct 29, 2026, Winnipeg Free Press).

If you're interested in understanding more, you might start with this site I just came across: Active History. They created a blog series this year called Indian Act 150. Looking Beyond the Indian Act is a contribution by Bob Joseph.

b. News

i. New Every Child Matters GRT bus, ambulance wrap revealed, The design is the work of Kevin George. Oct 1article by Christine Clark, CityNews Kitchener.

ii. Six Nations water treatment plant starting to show signs of wear Two Row Times, Oct 21. By Donna Duric.

c. 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.

i. Unreserved with Rosanna Deerchild CBC Listen.

6. **Sat, Dec 5, 4-8 p.m. Rising From the Ashes - Wildfire Fundraiser for Namaygoosisagagun (Trout Lake First Nations in Collins, ON)** St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 54 Benton St., Kitchener**.** There is parking on-site and free at the public parking garage across the street on Saturdays.

   This summer, a devastating wildfire destroyed their community. Families escaped by boat, leaving nearly everything behind.Now we have an opportunity to come together and support them as they rebuild. Join us for live music, artwork, original handmade crafts, hot food, baked goods and a silent auction.

   We're looking for volunteers to help with:

   - Set-up and teardown
   - Baking and cooking ahead of time
   - Heating and serving food during the event
   - Distributing posters throughout the community

   Donations of artwork, handmade crafts and services for the silent auction are also welcome!

   To volunteer or contribute, contact: Lana: admin@featherandcross.org or Audrey: troutlakefundraiser@gmail.com Can't attend? You can still donate by e-transfer to Audrey's email.

   Please share with your friends and community. Together, we can help a community rise from the ashes.