

Living Into Right Relations – April 2026

Happy Spring!

We have just turned the page into April, and May may seem far off, given the ice that was on the puddles this morning. But it will be here before we know it, and May 5, the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People, will very likely be here before the next newsletter arrives. Certainly, if you're planning a display or looking to put on or attend an event, you'll want to be thinking about that now. Section 1 might help with this.

The usual variety of opportunities fills April to overflowing. What a gift to have so many avenues to engage in the conversation and work toward right relations and repair. We encourage you to choose one or two things of interest.

May you 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. **May 5 is Red Dress Day, the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S).**

Local Region of Waterloo events currently posted.

- a. **May 2 - 16, [Red Dress Day Art Exhibit and Call 30](#)** At Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, organized by [Mennonite Central Committee](#) (MCC). An exhibit featuring artwork that illustrates factors contributing to the criminalization and harm of Indigenous women. As part of the exhibit, you're invited to take part in Call 30, an activity that brings awareness to the factors contributing to the overpopulation of Indigenous women in Ontario prisons. Co-facilitated by MCC and [Feather and Cross Community](#) (May 5 and May 14).
- b. **Tues, May 5, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm [Stories That Carry Us: Honouring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Through Advocacy and Education](#)** UW Office of Indigenous Relations and the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office. Elder Myeengun Henry will begin the day with a sacred fire beginning at 10:30 a.m. on the B.C. Matthews Hall (BMH) Green...See more info in the link.

This [2024 article from Amnesty International](#) provides some background. The events referred to in the article may not be happening this year, but there are some things we can all do to increase awareness: wear red, hang a red dress outside your home, workplace or church, and participate in Red Dress events in your community.

In KW there is usually a walk and vigil organized by Healing of the Seven Generations (H7G). It's early April so information is not yet posted. Check the H7G [website](#) or [facebook](#) page closer to the date. Also, look for events or information from such sources as [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) or UW [Office of Indigenous Relations](#). In other locales, check libraries, municipal events and university or local Indigenous organizations.

2. Land Back

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) Willow River Centre, 243 King St., Kitchener.
 - i. Read their Facebook posts.
 - ii. Look for monthly arts market and other events in Learning section below.
 - iii. How to support? [Support us | O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#).

3. 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. [From Land Acknowledgements to Action](#) In 2026, [Citizens for Public Justice](#) will work directly with Christian communities to develop practical reconciliation action plans - helping people translate faith and concern into real advocacy that pushes governments toward change. See also 5.a.1 below.
- c. **Tues, April 7 & 21, 6-8 p.m.** [Tea and Crafts with Totah Rhea](#), Willow River Centre, 243 King St., Kitchener.
- d. **Wed, April 8, 12-2 p.m.** [Six Nations Polytechnic Lunch and Learn TEK-STEM* Lecture Series](#) Seed and Planting Knowledge with Archie Bomberry. Includes seed exchange! At Six Nations Campus. 2160 4th Line Rd., Ohsweken.
*STEM = Traditional Ecological Knowledge - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- e. **Fri, April 10, 6-10 p.m.** [Wisahkotewinowak's "Tap Off"](#) featuring The Sash Bandits - a Métis/Ukrainian brother trio known for their lively, traditional-inspired sound. Steckle Heritage Farm, Kitchener. Free with registration through the link.
- f. **Sat, April 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** [Together We Bloom Market](#) Willow River Centre, 243 King St., Kitchener.
- g. **Sat, April 11, 7:30-10 p.m.** [Morning & Night](#), Deantha Edmunds, C.M., Inuk/Newfoundlander soprano & composer. First United Church, 16 William St. W., Waterloo. Cost: \$56.50. Tickets [here](#).

- h. **Wed, April 15, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** [Six Nations Polytechnic](#) Lunch and Learn Seed Exchange, Brantford Campus, Room A113, 411 Elgin St., Brantford. Confirm with the calendar in the link.
- i. **Wed, April 15, Doors open at 5:30 p.m., event starts at 6:00 p.m.** [Honouring Graham Greene Film Screening](#) Woodland Cultural Centre, 184 Mohawk St., Brantford. Free.
- j. **Sat, April 18, 8 a.m - 4 p.m.** [Bus Trip for Mohawk Residential Institute Tour with catered lunch and more.](#) Organized by [Feather and Cross](#). Cost: \$76.38.
- k. **Sat, April 18, 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.
- l. **Thurs, April 23, 7-9 p.m.** [Niwiidosendimin \(We Walk with Each Other\)](#) Community walk from the rivers who meet in Guelph (Speed and Eramosa) to the hilltop where the Museum is located. Free.
- m. **Sat, April 25, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (draws starting at 2)** [Niwasa Penny Sale](#), Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, 34 Ottawa St. N, Hamilton. Free.
- n. [Nations Uniting](#) Sharing Circle is no longer going to be meeting. Thank you to Rhonda Johns at nations.uniting@gmail.com for your years of work with this project and the many people you taught, connected and inspired through it.
- o. **Wed, April 29, 12-2 p.m.** Grandmothers' Tea at [Five Oaks](#), 1 Bethel Rd, Paris. Potluck lunch and sharing time. Contact Joan (519-754-8786) or Shirley (519-753-5789) for more information.
- p. **To May 3.** [Kananginak Pootoogook: Printing The Inuit World](#) Art Gallery of Guelph, 358 Gordon St., Guelph. Free, donations appreciated.
- q. **Mon, May 4, 2-3:30 and 7-8:30 p.m.** RC Diocese of Hamilton "Listening to Indigenous Voices" online discussion of the film [Trick or Treaty? Alanis Obomsawin \(Producer/Director\)](#). Facilitated by Donna McGreal. To register and for more information contact dwmcgreal@gmail.com.
- r. **May 14** Moosehide [Campaign Day](#) .Watch for it or organize an event in your area. Learn more [here](#).
- s. Other events in your area may be found on [Eventbrite](#).

On the radar

- t. **Sat, May 23.** [Six Nations On-the-Land Learning](#) Thank you, Cindy Stover. Registration open.
- u. **May 29-30** [Continuance Immersive Commemoration](#) co-presented by Kaha:wi Dance Theatre & Woodland Cultural Centre. Tickets on sale now.
- v. **May 31- June 8** [imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival](#).
- w. **Sat, June 13** [Strawberry Thanksgiving and Communion](#) at Six Nations Polytechnic, 2160 4th Line Rd., Ohsweken. Registration is open. Spaces are limited.

4. Good Reads, News and Podcasts

a. Reads

- i. [On Dismantling Settler Colonialism](#) John A. Olthuis. Citizens for Public Justice. A useful resource for faith and community groups looking for responses to the question “What can we do?” Bulk discounts offered.
- ii. [Dispelling Common Myths About Indigenous Peoples](#). Free e-book from Indigenous Corporate Training INC. They produce an informative newsletter and are the source of valuable books such as Bob Joseph’s 21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act, a highly recommended and widely read book.
- iii. [Kihiani: A Memoir of Healing](#) by Susan Aglukark.

b. News - focus this month on RCMP surveillance of Indigenous leaders (i-iv).

- i. [RCMP commissioner regrets Indigenous spying program that spanned over a decade](#) CBC Investigations by [Olivia Stefanovich](#) and [Brett Forester](#), March 25/27.
- ii. [AFN calls for inquiry, apology for RCMP surveillance, paid informants program](#) APTN National News, March 26.
- iii. [Carney says apology needed for Indigenous spying program](#) CBC News by [Olivia Stefanovich](#), March 26.
- iv. [The RCMP, the spy and the betrayal of national chief George Manuel](#), CBC News by [Brett Forester](#), March 28.
- v. [‘Muzzling the process’: Ontario didn’t participate in Ring of Fire assessment](#), The Narwhal, by [Fatima Syed](#) and [Carl Meyer](#).
- vi. [\\$183M settlement reached with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation](#), CHCH News, by Harry Corro, March 7.

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. Domination Chronicles [Legalized Lawlessness: Bruce McIvor on Colonial Power, the Doctrine of Discovery, and the Fraud of Reconciliation](#).