

Living Into Right Relations – September 2026

Hello,

September is startup time for many of us, and this month's curated list shows that the LIRR community is no exception! It can be a bit overwhelming to take in. Perhaps look for one or two things you can engage in. Invite a friend to join you!

September ends with the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Wednesday, September 30. This is a day to remember, reflect on and learn more about the truth about colonization on Turtle Island, and accept the ongoing responsibility to work towards a more just future in our country. How to participate in this reflective day? Section 1 offers ideas and information available to date -- local events and general resources. Watch for more information in your community closer to September 30. September 30 is also [Orange Shirt Day](#). Remember -- wear orange!

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. September 30: the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

In the Watershed:

- a. **Fri, Sept. 18, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.** Brantford Native Housing's [5th Annual Truth and Reconciliation Event](#). Mohawk Park, 51 Lynwood Dr., Brantford.
- b. **Wed, Sept. 30:**
 - i. **9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.** at Woodland Cultural Centre -- a day of reflection, learning, culture and community. More information [here](#). 184 Mohawk St., Brantford.
 - ii. **10 a.m.** Annual Every Child Matters Walk, Kitchener. Healing of the Seven Generations. From 300 Frederick St. to Victoria Park/Willow Park Clock Tower. Please check their [website](#) or [Facebook](#) pages for info closer to the date.
 - iii. **5:30 p.m.** A service of lament at Trinity Lutheran Church (23 Church Street) in New Hamburg. Please bring a lawn chair for this outside service, and wear orange. Organized by Wilmot Indigenous Relations Interfaith Working Group. (ecumenicalworkinggroup@gmail.com)
 - iv. **6-8 p.m.** [Sacred Fire: Honouring Survivors and Their Loved Ones](#) hosted by Willow River Centre, held at Tsi thatitsyenhayentáhkwen in Willow River Park. 84 Schneider Ave., Kitchener. See link for more details.
- c. More events on this [List of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation activities](#). Search by town or search Ontario and scroll to find an event of interest or one close to you.

General Resources:

- d. [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation | Office of Indigenous Relations](#). This link includes background info and the program for events at UW for the UW community.
- e. **For Sun. Sept. 27/Oct 4:** Worship Resources - [A Christian Prayer of Lament on the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation](#) Thank you, Ron Flaming. [A Prayer as We Wear Orange](#), from the United Church, 2025.
- f. From [First Peoples Law](#) 2025 - "We'd like to take this opportunity to encourage our readers to learn and reflect on what the Day means as part of an ongoing, ever-evolving educational pursuit. Below is a non-exhaustive list of free educational resources to explore today, tomorrow, or any day."
 - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Lunch and Learns](#)
 - [University of British Columbia's "Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education" course](#)
 - [University of Alberta's "Indigenous Canada" course](#)
 - [Indigenous Watchdog's status update on the Calls to Action](#)

Check out our [Residential School Resource List here](#) for more resources. You can read Tumia's blog post on our [website here](#).

2. Land Back

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - at Willow River Centre, 243 King St. E., Kitchener.
 - i. Read their [Facebook posts](#).
 - ii. Sacred fire on Sept 30 - 1.b above.
 - iii. How to support? [Support us | O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#).

3. Highlighting annual events/ceremonies that are Indigenous-led or Indigenous-focused:

- a. **Sat, Sept 12, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** [Walk for the Park](#) to support continued development of the Memorial Park, a place of remembrance and healing that honours all former students of the Mohawk Institute Indian Residential School. Mohawk Village Memorial Park, 184 Mohawk St., Brantford.
- b. **Sept. 20-25:** The [All Nations Grand River Water Walk](#) begins in Port Maitland this year. Please click the website link to learn more, to join or follow the walk, or to support it in other ways.
- c. **Wed, Sept 23, noon.** [Free Grassy Narrows](#) River Run Rally, Toronto. Buses available. Find out about ways to support or reserve a spot on a bus from St Catharines, Guelph, KW or Hamilton [here](#).
- d. **Sat, Sept 26, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.** [Gidinawendamin/Ska'nikú·lát](#) 23rd Annual Pow Wow, Office of Indigenous Relations, University of Waterloo. Held at Columbia Icefield (CIF), Outdoor Field 7. 220 Columbia St. W., Waterloo.

4. Occasional Arts Section - theatre, concerts, art exhibits.

- a. **Mon, Sept 1 - Fri, Oct 9.** Tekà:neren - Everything and Forever, Art on the Wall, Keffer Chapel, Martin Luther University College, WLU. Painting, beadwork and digital media celebrating the Haudenosaunee Creation Story and illustrating "The Long Trail for Seeking Justice", a new booklet about the Haldimand Tract.
Sun, Sept 13, 3:30-5:30 p.m. [Exhibit Opening](#). It promises to be a powerful event, with informative discussion of the history of the Haldimand Tract, music and a chance to meet the artists.
- b. **Sat, Sept 5 - Nov 22.** [Patricia Deadman: Along the Grand](#). Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery. 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener.
- c. **Sat, Sept 12 - Jan 3, 2027.** [Wiigwasitig / waskway / Honouring the Birch Tree](#), Art Gallery of Burlington, 1333 Lakeshore Rd, Burlington. Free.
- d. **Sun, Sept 13, Thurs, Sep 17 - Jan 3, 2027.** [Earth Bodies](#), at [Art Gallery of Guelph](#), 358 Gordon St, Guelph. Free (donations appreciated).
- e. **Fri, Sep 18, 6:00 p.m.** [Niagara International Music Film Festival](#) presents [Listening to the Land: Music, Story, and Indigenous Cinema](#), at FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, 250 St. Paul St., St. Catharines. Cost: \$15.
- f. **Wed, Sept 30, 7:30 p.m.** [Logan Staats](#) returns to Emmanuel Concerts, Emmanuel United Church, 22 Bridgeport Rd. W., Waterloo. Tickets through the link.
- g. **Until Oct 9, 2026.** [Indigenous Art 2026: 51st Annual Juried Exhibition](#), Woodland Cultural Centre, 184 Mohawk Street, Brantford.
- h. **Until Oct 31.** [Mike MacDonald: Planting one Another](#), Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener. Free (donations appreciated).
- i. **Until Nov 22.** [Rosalie Favell: Belonging \(1982-2024\)](#), Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener. Free (donations appreciated).
- j. **Until Dec 31.** [Where The Rivers Meet](#), at [Guelph Civic Museum](#), 52 Norfolk St., Guelph. Cost: \$6.25 Adult.
- k. **Until Feb 28, 2027.** [Maawnjidyang Maa – We come together here](#) at Guelph Civic Museum, 52 Norfolk S., Guelph. Cost: \$6.25 Adult.

5. Learning at home and connecting in person

- a. [Crow Shield Lodge](#) in Waterloo Region is founded on four pillars: education, healing, land stewardship and reconciliation. Monthly programs and special events [here](#).
- b. **Sat, Sept 12, 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg's [Fall Family Fundraiser](#), 24 Smith Ave, Hamilton.
- c. **Mon, Sept 14, 7-9 p.m.** KW and area Ecumenical LIRR network meets at MCC offices, Community Room, 50 Kent St., Kitchener. Thanks, Verna Friesen.

- d. **Wed, Sept 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Louis Busch discusses his new book [Carry Your Heart](#) with [Dr. Savage Bear](#), part of the [HPL Author Series](#). West Harbour Branch, Library area, 77 Harbourside Way, Hamilton. Age group: Adults (18+). Register [here](#).
- e. **Thurs, Sept 17, 7-9 p.m.** [Together for Nature Tour](#). [Ontario Nature](#) and [Legal Advocates for Nature's Defence](#) invite you to hear from [Okiniwak](#), [Here We Stand](#), and [the Friends of the Attawapiskat River](#) to amplify the voices of Indigenous youth and land protectors from Northern Ontario. With Inuk singer-songwriter [Susan Aglukark](#). One of the four stops in Southern Ontario is Kitchener! St Matthews Centre, 54 Benton St. Tickets available [here](#). Spread the word! Want to help out? Contact Dorothy at nvecoboosters@gmail.com for volunteer opportunities.
- f. **Sat, Sep 19, 12:30-7 p.m.** [Tekanónhkwa Land-Based Learning and Restoration Fall Feast & Planting](#), 300 Lookout Lane, Kitchener.
- g. **Tues, Sept 22, 7-9:30 p.m.** Mohawk activist and artist **Layla Staats** presents the Indigenous teachings of the *Words Before All Else* and her 2023 documentary [Boil Alert](#) featuring the struggle of First Nations reserves to receive a basic human right: drinkable water. Film followed by a Q&A. At Emmanuel United Church, [871 Upper Ottawa Street](#), Hamilton. Cost by donation. Thank you, Pam Byers.
- h. **Wed, Sept 23, 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.
- i. **Tues, Sept 29, 5-6 p.m.** Meet [Karenná'onwe - Dr. Karen Hill](#) and hear about her new book [The Good Mind](#). Part of the [HPL Author Series](#). West Harbour Branch, The Medicine Wheel Circle, 77 Harbourside Way, Hamilton. Age group: Adults (18+).
- j. **Wed, Sept 30, 12-2 p.m.** Grandmothers' Tea at Grand River United Church, 1585 Mohawk Rd., Ohsweken. 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 Shirley at 519-753-5789.
- k. **Fri, Oct 1 - Sat, Oct 2. Organizing for Repair Weekend - Waterloo Region**
 Two events hosted by [MCCO](#) Indigenous Neighbours Program and [The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery](#). Email lauraenns@mcco.ca for details and registration.
 - i. **Fri, Oct 2, 7-9 p.m.** Stories of Solidarity, Tools for Repair. Young adult panel discussion with guest speaker Jonathan Neufeld. Great Hall - Conrad Grebel University College, [140 Westmount Rd N., Waterloo](#). Light refreshments provided.
 - ii. **Sat, Oct 3, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** 100-Year Vision: Multigenerational Organizing for Repair with Indigenous Communities. Retreat day with guest speakers Jonathan Neufeld (in-person) and Sarah Augustine (virtual). In-person event with livestream available. Shantz Mennonite Church, 2473 Erb's Rd, Baden. Lunch, coffee and snacks provided. Donations welcome.
- l. **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 – Tlingit -Taku River Tlingit First Nation, British Columbia. Facilitated by Donna McGreal. To register and for more information contact dwmcgreall@gmail.com.

On the radar

- m. **Sat, Nov 14, noon - 4 p.m.** [Moccasin-Making Workshop with Haudenosaunee Artisan Susan Hill](#). These workshops often sell out. Registration closes Oct 31.

6. Good Reads, News, Views and Podcasts

a. Reads

- i. [Indigenous Rights in One Minute: What You Need to Know to Talk Reconciliation](#)
Lawyer and historian Bruce McIvor provides concise, plain answers to 100 essential questions being asked by Canadians across the country about fulfilling Canada's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Published May 2025.
- ii. From Niigaan Sinclair, Biidaajimowin Sept 24 2025, [Honouring the humanity of Orange Shirt Day – Winnipeg Free Press](#)

b. News

- i. [First Nations gave Doug Ford a wildfire plan. Ontario ignored it.](#) [Fatima Syed](#), The Narwhal, July 23, 2026.

c. Views

- i. [National Film Board's residential schools film collection](#)

- 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.

- i. [What water can teach us about resistance and survival ★ The Breach](#) Desmond Cole discusses [The Theory of Water](#) with author [Leanne Betasamosake-Simpson](#).