

Wellbeing Waterloo Region

JOURNEY TOWARDS RECONCILIATION – Fall 2019

Wellbeing Waterloo Region is a community collaborative working to improve the Wellbeing of residents in Waterloo Region and supports the following action item:

Provide Safe facilitation and spaces for conversations that acknowledge the impacts of colonization and support actions that will promote reconciliation and support Indigenous wellbeing.

Objectives:

Develop and implement cultural and bias awareness training for the Wellbeing Waterloo Region working groups to impact and address health and social inequities.

Bring together people and groups including the community and organizations to develop a common language to help us work toward equitable actions.

Honour the TRC Principle that Reconciliation must create a more equitable and inclusive society by closing the gaps in social, health, and economic outcomes that exist between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Canadians.

The Territorial Acknowledgement

“We acknowledge that the land on which we gather today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishnaabe and Neutral People. We acknowledge the enduring presence of the Indigenous people with whom we share this land today, their achievements and their contributions to our community. We offer this acknowledgement as an act of reconciliation between Indigenous and non- Indigenous peoples of Canada”

Waterloo Region, including the three cities and four townships, is located on the traditional territories of the Neutral, Anishnaabe (pronounced Ah-nish-naw-bay) and Haudenosaunee (pronounced Ho-den-oh-show-nee) peoples. Waterloo Region is part of the Haldimand Tract which encompasses six miles of either side of the Grand River from the mouth near Dundalk to where it empties into Lake Erie at Port Maitland. The use of this land was promised to the Haudenosaunee Confederation on October 25, 1784 to compensate them for the loss of their lands in upstate New York when they allied with the British who were defeated in the American Revolutionary war. Today, Waterloo Region is home to Indigenous people from many distinct First Nations, as well as Metis and Inuit.

<http://www.wellbeingwaterloo.ca/blog/indigenous-engagement/>

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AGENDA – Tuesday October 8th, November 26th, and 28th

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 (8:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) Victoria Park Pavilion - 80 Schneider Ave, Kitchener

October 8th Morning: Kelly Fran Davis *Haudenosaunee philosophy, treaties and Indigenous Reality*

Kelly Fran will orientate participants to local Indigenous culture and terminology, as well as the agreements and conditions that shape the lives of Waterloo Regions local Indigenous community.

LUNCH: Traditional Soup and Scone with Cedar tea (or coffee)

October 8th Afternoon: Nikki Robinson, Tammy Webster *Indigenous Wellness and Relationships*

Through the workshop, participants will begin to disseminate the requirements for a meaningful relationship with Indigenous people. First, there will be some preliminary discussion on terminology, acknowledgments and then delve into understanding some historical impact of legislative decisions since contact. Through this initial conversation, participants will be able to review their own learning and determine early next steps on pursuing a meaningful relationship with Indigenous people.

Tuesday, November 26, 2019 (8:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) Victoria Park Pavilion

November 26th Morning: Kelly Laurila *Critiquing the journey of reconciliation*

Participants will learn about a concept called "the ethical space of engagement" and how that stance allows one to critique the knowledge, assumptions, perceptions, and stereotypes one has learned and derive an understanding of themselves and Indigenous peoples. A willingness to enter into an ethical space of engagement can open dialogue, understanding, and engagement.

LUNCH: Traditional Stew, Scone and Cedar tea (or coffee)

November 26th Afternoon: Heather Majaury *Niindawemaginduk All My Relations - A pathway to Reconcili-(Action)*

A dynamic and interactive session that synthesizes information and insights gleaned from the first workshop using consensus decision making, helping participants to consider "What

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Next?” on an individual, community, social land group context within the systems they interact with daily in the region where they live.

Optional: Thursday, November 28, 2019 (10:00 a.m. - Noon) [Victoria Park Pavilion](#)

All Trainers - Guided Circle discussion, Giving Feedback and Closing Activity

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Kelly Fran Davis- Kelly is Haudenosaunee from the Six Nations territory of the Grand River; she belongs to the Cayuga nation and the Wolf clan. Bringing Indigenous knowledge, practices and context to the community members and professionals of the K-W region; Kelly provides workshops on Haudenosaunee style dancing, singing performances, traditional teachings, and has worked within education, justice, Grand Valley Institution for Women's Federal Penitentiary (that brought her family to KW) and also as a professor at Wilfrid Laurier University. With her years of experience working with, and for Indigenous people on Turtle Island. She is a strong advocate on implementing the Calls to Action of Canada's Truth & Reconciliation Commission. Kelly Fran is an intergenerational champion of

Canada's Indian Residential School System. She says champion because her and her children can still call themselves Haudenosaunee, despite the assimilation and genocide attacks on her Haudenosaunee ancestors and ways of life! As an Indigenous consultant Kelly Fran continues to strive to create a brighter future for her next three generations and to honour her previous three generations!

Nicole Robinson- Nicole identifies as having mixed Haudenosaunee and European ancestry. She is a member of the Oneida Nation of the Thames First Nation in Southern Ontario and lived most of her life in Ontario's 'Near North'.

Nicole moved to the Waterloo Region in 2007 to pursue her education and has worked at the Waterloo Region District School Board as the Equity and Inclusion Officer - Aboriginal Focus for the past 11 years. In this role, Nicole's passion for raising Indigenous awareness in classrooms is what drives her work. Much care is taken to help to build bridges between WRDSB staff/ students and the Indigenous communities within the region in order to create classrooms that can become agents of change that we hope to see as we move forward - toward reconciliation.



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Tammy Webster - Tammy is an Algonquin community member from Kitigan Zibi. She possesses a Master of Education and three Bachelor degrees. Her employment with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board since 2002, first as a teacher and then as the Indigenous Education Lead has enabled her to have a unique perspective into the needs of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the region. With her volunteer work sitting on various boards of directors, Tammy continues to understand and navigate the needs of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous. She educates gently and purposefully on transforming thoughts and understanding of Indigenous perspectives.

Kelly Laurila- Kelly is of Sáami Indigenous (Northern Finland) and Settler Irish ancestry. She is a Sundancer, song carrier of an Indigenous women and girls' drum circle for 14 years, facilitator of community outreach engagements of song and education pertaining to Indigenous/Settler relations, and facilitator of circle pedagogy and dialogues pertaining to Indigenous/Settler relations. In 2018, Kelly successfully defended her doctoral dissertation pertaining to Indigenous/police relations and she is actively pursuing teaching opportunities within postsecondary education.



From her own journey of struggle to reconcile her Indigenous and Settler ancestry and close to 27 years of lived Anishinaabe experiences, Kelly has found a place of compassion that enables her to dialogue with Settler peoples. Learning about the history and ongoing injustices that Indigenous peoples experience is challenging and it can contradict the history that one has known in Canada. Kelly endeavours to create a space that encourages individuals to listen, understand, reflect, question, and imagine a way forward in the reconciliation process that is underway in Canada.

Heather Majaury (Algonquin Nation) is of mixed Indigenous and Settler ancestry who believes that decolonization happens most effectively within our common and meaningful relationships. Being able to work together in a conciliatory manner takes time and practice. To effectively transform our systems, we need to engage in unlearning as much as learning. Her professional background includes developing processes using applied theatre techniques to wholistically approach collaboration and change that encourages taking constructive actions



moving forward. She is focused on supporting this series of workshops by helping participants synthesize their experiences to support system transformation. Heather graduated with her MA in Theatre Studies from Guelph University and has worked using these techniques in various ways ever since. She is also a professional actor, playwright, dramaturge, and director focusing her energies on community-based projects whenever possible. She earned a BA in Aboriginal Adult Education from Brock University and has her BA in Dramatic Arts and Communication Studies from the University of Windsor. She is deeply influenced by Augusto Boal directly and several first-wave Canadian practitioners throughout her career.

Wellbeing Waterloo Region would also like to acknowledge the following people who were involved in the workshop itinerary planning and guidance for this information series: **Maureen Ninham-Harvey, Jessica Duke, Julie Hill, Lorie Fioze and Cynthia-Anne Martin.**

SUGGESTIONS FOR OFFERING A TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - Living document

Wellbeing Waterloo Region has made a commitment to develop meaningful relationships and work toward reconciliation with local Indigenous communities. Part of this commitment includes developing resources and tools to support education with our community partners, and this territorial acknowledgment is one resource. The Indigenous Workgroup of Wellbeing Waterloo Region was consulted in the development of this territorial acknowledgment.

When/Where can Wellbeing Waterloo Region Members Offer Acknowledgements?

A Territorial acknowledgment will be offered by a designated person at the beginning of every WWR workgroup meeting, every WWR community forum, and every WWR event such as training sessions or project launches.

Preparing for the Acknowledgement---Know This Important Background Information:

Waterloo Region, including the three cities and four townships, is located on the traditional territories of the Neutral, Anishnaabe (pronounced Ah-nish-naw-bay) and Haudenosaunee (pronounced Ho-den-oh-show-nee) peoples. Waterloo Region is part of The Haldimand Tract which encompasses six miles on either side of the Grand River from the mouth near Dundalk to where it empties into Lake Erie at Port Maitland. This use of this land was promised to the Haudenosaunee Confederation on October 25, 1784 to compensate them for the loss of their lands in upstate New York when they allied with the British who were defeated in the

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American Revolutionary war. Today, Waterloo Region is home to Indigenous people from many distinct First Nations, as well as Métis and Inuit.

Potential Introduction

The wording of this introduction provides a context for a territorial and land acknowledgement. It may be used as is or changed to reflect personal experience and/or connections with the land and with Indigenous people in Waterloo Region.

“I would like to begin this meeting with a territorial acknowledgement. Why do we take the time to do a territorial acknowledgement? It is a way of honouring the land on which our successes have been built, and the Indigenous people who have been living on and caring for this land for thousands of years. As well, it is a longstanding protocol among Indigenous peoples that honours their spiritual connection to the land. Today we offer it as an act towards reconciliation between non-Indigenous Canadians and the Indigenous peoples of Canada.”

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Additional Information about Territorial and Land Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements are offered as an act of reconciliation between the people of Canada and Indigenous peoples. They signal the need to build mindfulness of our present relationship with the land and with First Peoples, and are an effort to respectfully move forward in both conversations and actions.

Cultural teachings may vary among Indigenous groups. Territorial and Land Acknowledgements may be seen differently depending on the cultural group and their location and there are diverse opinions about the use of them. Wording of acknowledgments may be revised as knowledge and social situations may change over time.

What is a Territorial Acknowledgement?

- It is a statement that recognizes and respects original nations and their relationships to particular areas of land that they have been connected with for thousands of years.

What is a Land acknowledgement?

- It is a statement that brings to mind the connection of land to human wellbeing, a reminder that we are a part of nature, dependant upon the earth for survival, and states our gratitude for all that nature provides us.

Why do we take the time for acknowledgements?

- It is important to understand the history that has brought us to reside on this land and our place in that history.
- It is a longstanding protocol among Indigenous peoples that honours their spiritual beliefs.

When is an acknowledgment offered?

- An acknowledgement is offered at the opening of meetings, ceremonies, lectures or public events.
- It is to be offered even if there may be no Indigenous individuals present.

Who offers the acknowledgement?

- The host of the event - and generally the non-Indigenous member of the group will offer the acknowledgement.
- The person offering the acknowledgement first introduces themselves and may include family lineage and other connections to the land and people.

How do I Prepare for Offering an Acknowledgement?

- Find out which groups of First Peoples are connected to the land on which the event is happening so that they can be properly acknowledged for their care of and connection to the land. (see links below)
- Practice pronouncing the names of the nations that will be acknowledged as a way of respecting those Indigenous groups and their languages.
- Seek input of a community Elder if you have further questions or if you wish to develop a land acknowledgement for your own group or workplace.

We would like to thank the members of Waterloo Region Aboriginal Academic Advisory committee (WRAAAC) who involved local First Nations, Metis and Inuit representatives and staff persons from both Waterloo Region school districts to develop the Acknowledgement that many use to this day.

Additional resources or information, refer to a community elder and/or:

- <http://waterloo2019.cansee.ca/land-acknowledgement-we-are-here/>
- <http://www.sixnations.ca/LandsResources/HaldProc.htm>
- <http://reconciliationcanada.ca/cultural-teachings-welcome-to-territory-land-acknowledgments/>
- <http://www.lspirg.org/knowtheland/>

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- [What's with the Territorial Land Acknowledgements at Public Events?](#)
- <http://www.cbc.ca/listen/shows/the-current/segment/15723250>
- http://www.wellbeingwaterloo.ca/blog/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/WWR_Indigenous_Community_Consultations.pdf

NOTES:

Funding and resources are provided by:

