



Greetings my relatives!

Here we are, past the autumnal equinox! In the 4th wave...slowly putting our lives in place amidst the chaos and continual uncertainty that has accompanied this pandemic.

Remembering that everything has a time and purpose, when placing our lives in the Creator's hands, is always challenging when we are submerged in

the western construct of metropolitan life, work and a major aspect of our living.

We were out at the old pow-wow grounds at Enoch First nations at 10 am; yet arrivals were a long time coming and it was chilly in the arbor area. Soft chatter emerged. People were having to go to other events and the jumble inside and outside myself was palatable. I was remembering, restoring, and renewing my own alignment with Creator. I was sharing sweetgrass, sage and cedar in the way of the Earth. Our Elder, intercessor instructed us to alter the ceremony with respect to contraries, pipes and the four directions; as we would not smoke the pipes at this time due to Covid. This was not a Wiping of the Tears that will be done in February 22 if the Covid has lifted and settings can be placed. However, this allowed for restoration of the soul and spirit for all those that attended. At the end of the sharing, the sun came out and we enjoyed the beautiful surroundings that we were immersed in.

Dragonflies were everywhere....with Darcy Demas ceremonial keeper for Eagle Sundance in Pembroke Mountains B.C.

In the evening, the Wakinyan Oyate came and cleansed the Earth with a perfect storm to remind us that we are in charge of very little in this life!

The next morning Iktomi was busy as ever.....



Off to River Cree Resort for our Transformative Reconciliation Gathering...the concept being to assist our Indigenous People in moving forward amidst the 4th wave Delta variant of the pandemic, losses of our Indigenous children at Residential schools; and find mutual solutions to keep moving forward.

Well iktomi was having none of that...the wind was up, the weather cold and no outdoor activities were taking place this morning. I went to pick up a few things at the office and

found no one there and none of the registration boxes had been taken over. I located what I could; loaded up my truck and headed over thinking everyone would be just finishing pipe. No pipe was taking place due to Covid and staff were in distress and disarray. My son and grandson were present part of Mehaka Sapa's family line; and I had them pray with tobacco and place it around the River Cree resort buildings. Then I launched into our legal panel with half the representatives; as not only were people not allowed in due to not having their newly adopted Covid Vaccine record, numerous funerals and deaths were occurring on and off reserve; people vaccinated in the States could not cross the border without a Covid vaccine *passport* due to Delta Variant, and on it went! Nevertheless, we prevailed! Originally, we said 100 for River Cree; then we thought we would have more, as there were so many phone calls; then we had less due to further restrictions with the 4th wave of the pandemic; and rising numbers of hospitalizations and deaths.

We had 58 on our contact tracing sheets. Our events outside took place on the following day when it was warm and the wind died down! We had families attend with 7-15 year olds. Elders Room, Veterans sharing, and 12 step meetings were ongoing in the Chiefs board Room. Electric guitars were constructed; 16 hand drums were made; and the tipi poles eventually arrived; *after the wheel on the trailer bringing the poles was fixed*; that is, a whole new wheel had to be replaced; (which was the morning of the first day of the River Cree

event; and why no one was at the office to assist with bringing the boxes over the morning of September 23)... Iktomi was busy to start...for a little while...eventually, iktomi subsided....

Nevertheless, a strong spiritual foundation was established for the work we have set out to do over the next four years. We adapted as we always do, in this crisis situation that no one had any control over, and the production people with River Cree were able to bring in people remotely. Chief Billy Morin shared a game with everyone, I had no idea he was aka a talk show host; and people naturally relaxed and we worked with what he had. Our legal panel had Chief Arvol Looking Horse virtually, Metis Lawyer Rob Louie, Restorative Justice Enoch Lawyer Alicia Morin, Micmah RCMP Sergeant Starzynski and First Nations Lawyer Joanne Lethbridge Pompana. At lunchtime, our Metis dancers with Lyle Donald and Jody Donald got everyone moving. Then Elder Dr Douglas Cardinal shared a keynote address while the Yellowhead Tribal College students prepared for the afternoon panel on governance and social work. Dr Rachel Cobb and Elder Lyndon Aginas provided feedback. Finally, Jim Westie spoke on the i Bobbli app out of Australia, and the session closed out for the afternoon. The evening banquet consisted of every food delight a person could imagine; and Angeline Bouley, Anishnabe, came in virtually from Michigan sharing on her amazing life; and New York Times Bestseller book Firekeeper's Daughter.

The following half day brought Carole Hopkins from Ontario University speaking on neuroscience and ceremony; instead of Claude Two Elk who could not come north at the last minute to speak on Dakota 38 +2. However; discussions were held, and people did opt into one of the four different objectives outlined on the first day, to take place over the next four years; (see host notes document).

1. Turtle island bundle of laws;
2. a longhouse for urban abandoned Indigenous children;
3. a youth exchange memorial ride from South Dakota to Arctic Red River; and finally;
4. keeping the transformative reconciliation gathering alive over the next four years.

If you are reading this for the first time and did not have a chance to sign up for one of these objectives; and still want to...please send an email to myself or Carmen or Everett to get involved...

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We will begin meeting in January 2022, for the next Transformative Reconciliation Gathering September 27-30, 2022. Thank you to all who joined us!

Mitakuye Oyasín

www.redroadjourney.ca

Lessons Learned so far:

Space out the time between ceremony September 22, 2022 and gathering to September 27, 2022 next year.

Have a longer amount of time *for everything*...4 days September 27-30, 2022; instead of a day and a half; especially, for legal issues; like one whole day.

Pray the pandemic is over and people can cross the border into Canada.

Include more; get help from other agencies and institutions; stay on track...and see these initiatives through in the next 4 years!!

Taku wakan skan skan! Pila Miye...

Niya Pte Win

Pejuta Waste Win