

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:



Good morning!

We are happy to announce this spring, that The Orange Hub, (TOH) and Yellowhead Tribal College Education Program, (YTCEP) are willing to collaborate with Red Road on the Clifford George Pompana Indigenous Transpersonal Therapy Library that will be housed within the YTCEP existing Library. We are *very* excited about this, and busy in the planning stages. Albeit cognizant of the recent Covid 19 restrictions. Clifford George Pompana, our past Senior Elder and Senior Therapist, who was an insatiable academic, (shared by one who knows), has thousands of books that everyone wants; therefore, the idea came to share these excellent books with everyone!

Simultaneously, our RED ROAD, INDIGENOUS WEST, PTE OYATE, FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK¹, is also in the process of putting together a WIPING OF THE TEARS² ceremony for all of those who could not attend Cliff's service in February, 2021; due to the cold weather, covid and the distance for Elderlies wanting to attend from the other provinces. We thereupon realized, during this bleak saddened time, that there are *many many* of our people, *ALSO deeply grieved* (new word), through this past year of pandemic. Therefore; we ultimately decided, that we needed to *wipe the tears of many*; so that we can *all move forward* in a good way.

The first step in this process, was to see if those Elders who hold this ceremony, would come to Edmonton and *wipe the tears of the people*. When our Director received the affirmative, we then considered where this might take place. Before the cold weather hit in February, we were initially going to have Cliff's service take place in Enoch; as they are the closest First Nation to the City of Edmonton. Henceforth, we will resume this initial venue for September 22,2021...at Our Lady of Mercy church in Enoch. AND; as far as plans go, this will be followed by a buffalo feed at the Enoch Recreation Centre.

THEN; on the 23rd (for a whole day and evening), and on the 24th (for a half day and lunch), our Family Resource Network is looking at hosting a **Transformative Reconciliation Gathering** at River Cree (in the hotel salons NOT the casino); where our **Elderlies** (from many First Nations Metis and Inuit) will be gathering and sharing within the **transformative reconciliation** construct. This will be *deep reconciliation*; with a variety of seminars and workshops designed for our families, communities, and nations; that our formal and informal spoke partners will be putting together. A **sample** of the topics being discussed so far are: Indigenous Legal Traditions; (including *Bill C-92*, Cleaning Up Tailings Ponds with Dene Engineer and Geologist Elders *Natural Law*, Enoch *Restorative Justice*, *Intellectual Property*, Arvol Lookinghorse's *Protection of Ceremonies*³, Red Road *PIPES*⁴); Protecting the Water around the Fetus; and thus on the Earth (including construction of Moss Bags and Cradleboards); Building DENE Drums with Dene Elder; Making Regalia; Building Electric Guitars with our Youth; *Transformative Reconciliation* Web Apps such as I Bobbly App; *Tough Enough*; Winter Counts; Talent Show; Making Moccasins; Games; Sustainable Energy *on reserve*; YTCEP Indigenous Social Work and Governance Students Panel; Building a Tipi on site; sprinkling throughout the event with an Elders room for sharing circles; a Veterans room; Al-Anon and AA meetings; and lots of jiggling, traditional dancing and drumming entertainment. A beginning ... we hope that will take off and be an annual event. This is exciting work, LOTS of work, and I hope *restorative* work after the COVID; (my prayer being that the pandemic will be lifted by then; herd immunity will be reached); and that we may have *a way* to move our children, youth and families forward *to ongoing transformative reconciliation*...within and without themselves...on and off reserve. Please join us! www.redroadjourney.ca.

¹ RED ROAD, INDIGENOUS WEST, PTE OYATE, FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK is a Hub and Spoke service that consists of Red Road as the Hub with an Early Childhood Development Spoke, a Parent Education Spoke, a Family Outreach Spoke and an Indigenous Family Support Spoke to Family Futures. Most of these services occur at the Red Road location in THE ORANGE HUB TOH. Ben Calf Robe has a spoke to Red Road for Home Visitation; Bent Arrow has a spoke to Red Road for Youth; and Metis Child and Family Services has a spoke to Red Road for In Home Support Services. All of these agencies; as well as our informal partners TOH Westie and YTCEP are working together in participation of this event.

² *Wiping of the Tears* came from Curtis Kills Ree and Birgil Kills Straight, Lakota Sioux Elders, had a vision in 1986, that our people could not move forward; as their tears had not been wiped. The ceremony and horseback ride was practiced for 4 years as requisite for new visions that become ceremony. The first formal Wiping of the Tears came in 1990 at a place called Wounded Knee in South Dakota. The ceremony has not been held in Canada as of yet.

³ *Protection of Ceremonies 1*- Chief Arvol Looking Horse, 19th Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe

⁴ *PIPES*-a 30 year old legal concept for Turtle Island Indigenous - Preservation of Indigenous Peoples Ethics & Statutes

