



I was burdened greatly by the deaths of those around me-but by incorporating their suffering into our lives-does not change the way of the world. ***Levon Helm ----- In the Electric Mist***

I have used that saying *a lot* over the last few years; and now it is more applicable than ever. How can we do better? Especially for our children. We are the third legal tradition of Canada. Why is Bill C-92 still an empty piece of legislation? A Statute passed to allow First Nations, Metis and Inuit people to look after their children; either through Indigenous agency off reserve or on reserve through band designates. Justice and our children have been paramount issues for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Why are we waiting for permission? How can we preserve, enhance and create our legal tradition so it stands sovereign; if not equal, to civil and common law traditions of Canada, United States and Mexico. Why not a bundle of laws for Turtle Island; that includes the

94 recommendations of the TRC, restorative justice, Chief Arvol Looking Horses's protocols for the Pipe and the 7 ceremonies of 2003, the laws of current self governing First Nations, the SCC decisions that built bridges for sovereignty, natural law, UNDRIP and so forth. Every First Nation, Settlement and Territory across Turtle Island has a system of customary laws that incorporates sacred relationship at every level. I believe the people we have lost are standing with us today to make this happen.

Out of the ashes must come the revitalizing spirit to move forward and take our rightful place in the world as Indigenous Peoples with a way of life that heals, restores, renews. The repatriation of our children, the suffering from the pandemic, the loss of many relatives this past year has taken its toll. Enoch First Nations kindly held vigil these past four days with a pipe at 4 pm, a continual fire, a sharing circle and a feast for those residential school children in mass graves across the country; and the survivors. The last day is today if one wishes to respectfully attend and support their gathering.

Our Senior Elder, Senior Therapist whom we lost last February 22, 2021, also was in Brandon Residential School for 10 years. At one point, when there were settlements available for those who attended residential schools, he was going to make application. However; as that time drew closer, he was not sleeping. He had already spent years doing therapy for himself and others. I said "you know, we don't need this, if it's bringing up such horror, maybe let it go". Fortunately, he did let it pass. I am grateful; because we had another 15 years together. All his buddies who received their settlements, were dead within the year from receiving those dollars, from drugs and alcohol.

Red Road has survived throughout this bleak time, and is growing graciously; despite, and in spite of, the many challenges that had to be faced this past year. We look forward to the lifting of pandemic restrictions in the next month; and herd immunity. Please see our June calendar on the website, and the new description of our RED ROAD INDIGENOUS WEST, PTE OYATE, FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK (FRN) under that FRN tab.

AND; we are working on a Wiping of the Tears Ceremony (WTC) for the passing of our Senior Elder, Senior Therapist in September; followed by a Transformative Reconciliation Gathering at River Cree, September 23 & 24, 2021. Watch for posters with details, closer to that time. For now, there is a one page bulletin describing these upcoming events. In the meantime, stay well, enjoy the sunshine, go out and pray today at 4 pm at the Enoch Pow Wow grounds; look after those you love! Thank goodness, we only have to live *one day at a time*.

Wolakota. Mitakuye Oyasin.

Joanne