



Red Road New Year Message

Good day...everyone who turns to this page...'thick in blizzardy winter are we now'...yoda talk (or "the child") ... as many know our Indigenous languages are considered backward as are the romantic languages...as is "yoda talk"....really...who has the backward language...why are so many Indigenous considered dyslexic...according to who...

Nevertheless, it is great to have the light return...that really is our Indigenous celebration time. However; that too is confusing as the sun continues to rise later and later (calendar wise) until the end of January....it is setting later...though this tends not to be as noticeable...as later and later sunrises...

The actual shortest days then were December 18-24...in that time...the sun set as early as 4:21 pm December 18th & 19th ...on the other shortest days...the sun continued to rise later and later...but also set later and later....thats where some western teachings can be helpful...like mathematics...the precession of the equinoxes...and the Farmers Almanac...hence; our solstice gathering should have been December 18th or 19th ...usually I am on top of these things as my undergrad was astronomy-physics...however; this year nothing has been usual...and I am learning more and more intuitively why we do not do certain things for a year after we have lost someone close...its an inner and outer learning...

AND; WOW... did we have a year to plod through, in 2021...and at a few times alight through...as wonderous synchronous events occurred as well...unexpected messages through embracing the silence...unexpected meetings with relatives from long ago...new ways of collaborating, being in sync and together finding a pathway forward for our relations in the future...its exciting, wonderful and scary all at once...

Currently, we have the OMICRON variant of Covid to deal with....I first heard about the rising numbers on the news December 20, 2021....being 68, I didn't hesitate to book a vaccine for December 21 in the afternoon...was quick easy at an AHS building (old Pier Imports store in west end)...didn't feel a thing...tho I was low the next day...only took a day....and I was on holiday....one day out of 2 years not bad...

I know there continues to be lots of controversy...many are watching "Don't Look Up" ... excellent film. I remember in the 70's when I lived in a tipi for a winter west south west of Edmonton...through a winter like this...there was a book everyone was reading The Sheep Look Up (basically for salvation...it doesn't come...and the military take over)...being an astronomer and a herbalist...amongst other things...both stories are extreme...possible...however, I like to

think collectively we are smarter than that...more evolved than that...hence; why we are working on our Transformative Reconciliation Gathering beginning this month...for next September, 2022...please join us...

Last year, I pontificated on what we might do during the pandemic; books people might read; prophecies we might consider...next steps...

I think for our students this must be an especially trying time...as when we study, we have time to ponder the world as it is...this can be a good thing or a discouraging venture...again; how do we find the balance in our lives...there are plenty of suggestions on YouTube, Facebook and TikTok...however; this journey when we become an adult is between each of us and the Creator of our understanding...the hero's (heroine's) journey, as identified by Joseph Campbell and Carl Jung...interesting that both recent James Bond and Yellowstone media productions touch on this concept...albeit in a Hollywood manner...it is crucial to our next steps...individually and collectively...so for everyone; students and those journeying on that good red road...may the force be with you...

A way to keep your vision as a guidepost in your life, we often do vision boards at the beginning of the New Year; however, our new year can be anytime...as time is a man-made concept...(I have deliberated on about this concept before in other messages)... in Physics – Astronomy this is relativistic understanding...what is relative to you...did you actually participate in an *hanblecheyapi* ceremony, have you had striking dreams, do you have waking visions...has something called to you....you can start with a vision board to implement your journey in life...we will have discussions at this time as well...if you are concerned about what has happened whether through a dream or ceremony...talk to a *reliable Elder or counsellor or therapist*...unfortunately there has been much misuse and misinformation regarding these concepts....best case scenario in the urban environments...keep these things to yourself...and/or keep a journal...as people do strange things when they hear of visions and never had one...or cried out for one themselves...

Soooo we will do vision boards; socially distanced and masked on ZOOM (maybe YouTube) with our counselors and Elders...this will be an exercise and a sharing circle. Therefore, don't



throw out your inspiring 2021 calendars; and possibly some favorite magazines; as you may find these pictures useful (along with other items you may come across) to reflect your inherent vision, dreams and aspirations; onto your vision board. For those who can pick up supplies from us, do so. If you are at a distance (like out of town), and cannot come in, you will have to pick up your own supplies...and of

course; those few attending will have access to our Red Road supplies on hand. You will need Bristol Board(s), scissors, items to put on your board; plus possibly felties, tape, ribbon, glue, Velcro, photos....and whatever else that has specific meaning for you; and is attachable to your board creation. We will showcase some previous vision boards...to give you some ideas. AND for some *in the city* (who cannot get to the agency), we can probably drop off supplies. It can be a way to collect family events, diffuse the pandemic stress, celebrate life. So till then, you may want to consider a *theme(s)* for your vision board...

On another note, Red Road has information on their website; (that periodically gets hacked...as it did once again before Christmas...when I told people to check for more information on Red Road in all my Christmas greetings...) and is still working on building a virtual platform. Please check out Indigenized Early Childhood Education...may need to go through top tabs, to find other information...as in Education, Archives. Other topics will be uploaded as we go along this year. AND if there are topics you want to learn more about, let us know. The Stoney classes are streamed now.

Our calendar is posted-get involved where you can-most classes will begin around the middle of January; look for new events. Facebook, email or text us...YES we are having all kinds of tech issues...our landline phones are generally good tho the message not always up to date AND use the 780 471 3221 number (used to be an option...now it is the only number); our website is STILL an ongoing construct...it is getting easier to navigate!!!

AND we have our new logo on shirts and jackets...some still available!!!

Meanwhile stay safe, be kind, look after one another, LOOK AFTER YOURSELF!

You have to really see the morning to come to believe in it. Not a dawn groggy with little sleep, or a mind already busy sorting through obligations or rushing about preparing for another hectic frenzy but a morning full of deep silence and an absolute clarity of perception. A dawn you observe around you degree by degree.

Richard Wagamese, What Comes From Spirit 2021



Mitakuye Oyasín

Red Road



