

# RED ROAD TIYOSPAYE - CHRISTMAS SHARINGS



On December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, we had our annual gathering for the shortest day of the year; and to welcome back the light (and awareness), as the days begin to get longer; and we make pledges and plans for our personal and collective ceremonial cycle. Our Elder, Lyndon Aginas sang some fellowship drum songs; and our staff, helpers, and families had a sharing circle, followed with a FAMILY round dance. Our children played endlessly within our community circle. This was the coldest day of the year!!! And RED ROAD was present, welcoming the light! What a beautiful thing! Our tiyospaye has done this since 1993. It is a way for our urban Indigenous to settle their thinking down, and focus on what is *really important*...light, love and fellowship. We had a potluck, played some games, sang the 12 days of Christmas and shared some gifts. AND then, we called it a night....and the children were playing in the centre of the circle...right until we collected them to go home...

We used to call this the Red Road 'Follow the Eagle' Tiyospaye Gathering...then there were people who did not like the word tiyospaye...then there were people who didn't like 'this and that'; especially, the word tiyospaye...and now we have gone full circle...Creator comes first...not the meanness and pettiness of others...so on we go...remembering, restoring, renewing...our relationships that bring LIFE...tiyospaye is Lakota for family.

On this note, I began to expand my thinking on the many examples of children...historical and otherwise; as to what happens when children were discluded; negated; neglected in some way...the plagues of Egypt...the birth of Christ in a barn...known only to a few at the time...who followed starlight and dreams...the Indiana Jones movie where in the Temple of Doom...the children are taken...what happens to a community when the children are absent...when the children are not at the center of our lives; not pertinent to everything we do; every decision we make...

For instance...why hasn't a community longhouse been established already; rather than have our homeless babies sold into the marketplace...our Indigenous babies abandoned at birth...left to the masses to scrap over...and our current laws still do not have children at the center...that our Transformative Reconciliation Gathering law bundle for Turtle Island has the needs and protection of our children at the VERY CENTER OF ALL OUR LAW MAKING...is even an issue...our children demonstrate every day...the way to live with Earth and one another...I digress....needless to say, at the RED ROAD tiyospaye; the singing, playing, dancing and love that we share...may it extend out to all of you that read this; and to your families this holiday season...**MITAKUYE OYASIN**...we are all related...



THROUGH IT ALL I open myself to the world and let the light flow in. I am unbound and singing, glad of this day and open to what flows to me.

Richard Wagamese, What Comes From Spirit



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

To everyone

From

the

elders helpers board staff families

of the

red road indigenous west pte oyate family resource network

