

RED ROAD NEW YEAR MESSAGE 2023

OUR DREAMS ARE GATHERED and held sacred by those who believe in us...When I left those lonely roads and took the one that led in a long curving line of years to here, to a home in the mountains where I write, I am surrounded by those who believe in me and my dreams are their dreams. That's where the magic is, all of us together, sweeping the spotlight that shines on our dreams into the humble dustpan of our hearts and holding them sacred for each other.

-----Richard Wagamese, What Comes From Spirit

Such a simple thing, DREAMS; yet for many of us who follow that good red road, it is *EVERYTHING*. For those that record their dreams, (not the file 13 junk dreams...the lucid dreams-visions that we have unexpectedly), one can look back over time and see a story unfold in their lives...their story, their dreams...and then...we may meet up with *conscionable* others who have had similar dreams and visions...what a beautiful thing...unmeasurable...no quanta...no absolute explanation...the mystery, the magic of the collective consciousness...that can re-create a new world...most Indigenous groups in different countries, know this and follow this...we never stopped the fight for what we believe in...we just do things differently now...we know the power of peace (Hehaka Sapa, Black Elk)...

Thank goodness for Carl Jung and other transpersonal therapists; (that came along after the Sigmund Freud era); who helped many of our Indigenous make sense out of their lives after the onslaught of the western world and western thinking...the Story of Jimmy P (Blackfoot man who returns to Montana after WW II) is particularly poignant...and I wish many of my relatives had the chance to see that film before they left for the spirit world - along with the many other great films that came out later, in the 90's and up to present day...

So now that the world is more attentive to the psyche of the Indigenous-where are our healthy leaders? Generational trauma tied to 'the myriad deaths' from the pandemic, is leaving many culture carriers exhausted...not whipped...just a little exhausted...as quoted by M (Emma) in the James Bond movie Skyfall, when she is surrounded by unbelievers in parliament:

We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are,
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, *and not to yield*

Every time we sing our songs preparing for a grand entry or a round dance, we are calling in *the host* to join us...collectively, we have done this for hundreds of years...what a beautiful thing...we cannot, at times, do what we need to do, *but Creator can*...the above quote is English yes, and maybe by an intolerable person;

however, he is writing about universal warrior concepts...and about insidious evil...and the ability to call up our reserves of strength, when we feel we have no strength, AND; the time is NOW, to fight the *good fight*; to not give in to those people, places, and things *that shut down life*...for the sake of our children and our children's children...for the world to come...*MAY THE FORCE BE WITH US*...sounds a bit dramatic...*IT IS*...

On a lighter note, I have recognized in these last 4 months, *the willingness*, of those that are already exhausted, to muster up their strength, when a fellow pipe carrier suggests another task to clear the way for others; especially others who are suffering...*suddenly their exhaustion - their suffering*...is not so bad and they can do just a little bit more...

Our Cree Elders, George & Salina Saddleback being wrapped in a Dakota Thunderbird Starblanket, September 2022, who *willingly* stepped up to do a little bit more...when others did not show up...due to multiple losses...they too have had multiple losses but not this week...in their 80's; they have been married many many years; and are still conducting ceremony and mentoring others...



Everyone it seems, since the pandemic restrictions lifted, have been trying to cram the last 3 years into this past 6 months...people are still getting sick...our staff have rarely been all present...colds and flus...and children sick with colds and flu...have kept everyone struggling...anyway, all our regular annual events took place this past six months...and Creator looked after us...our annual Christmas party round dance...the most unplanned event Red Road has ever hosted...due to absenteeism, exhaustion, sickness...came together beautifully...because our old warriors (male and female) came together, to do what needed to be done.. Indigenous from more than one country...the Turkish Canadian Society TCS already helping so many of our Ukrainian peoples...made a point of creating space for the Indigenous Round Dance ...Sim, the head of TCS was busy the week earlier, making ribbon skirts with the new immigrant families to Edmonton from Ukraine; a true Indigenous Turkish woman, also involved in many municipal affairs as well as finishing her PhD...what do we do first...again Creator knows - even when we do not...

HOWEVER; at the same time, we never want to dismiss those that need to take time for themselves...and at some point they finally do...we are no good to anyone, if we don't look after ourselves (within reason)...simultaneously, we all do this differently...what works for one, may not work for another...try not to force solutions...that may have been done to us at some point...when were excited about something that works for us-we naturally want to share this with others...however; were all at different stages of our healing and grieving...the best we can do sometimes, is provide the space for transformative reconciling within and without one's self...

Needless to say, the sun always comes up...you just have to hold onto it a bit longer sometimes is all...

[Where the Crawdads Sing](#)



Dr Clifford Cardinal, Cree Lakota, Sundance Chief at Rosebud, South Dakota; through ceremony and academia discovered a way to clean up the tailings ponds at the tar sands. He has given his life for the people, a true Tashunka Witco wicasa wakan. He and his family received a Dakota Bald Eagle star blanket from Sioux Valley Manitoba.

Our calendar and events are posted on the www.redroadjourney.ca website and facebook. Join us where and when you can. AND YES, we are not perfect... We STILL have all kinds of tech issues...our landline phones are generally good now... tho' the message is not always up to date....our website is STILL an ongoing construct...though it is getting somewhat easier to navigate!!!

Our 7 sacred values of our Lakota Sioux that we talk about incessantly; and some of you may not know, are: Love, Courage, Honesty, Generosity, Chastity, Silence, Respect...are these much different than other First Nations, Metis, Inuit, other Indigenous the world over ?...I think not!

Therefore in closing:



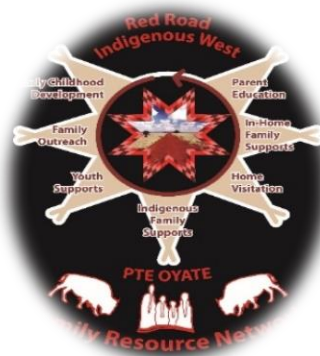
May the Creator of the Universe surround you with respect;

as you in turn show respect to all of Creator's Creation...

Mitakuye Oyasin

Red Road

Joanne



Once again, our website is www.redroadjourney.ca