



Red Road Spring Message

Good morning!

I have left the lovely crocuses on this page, from last year; poking their heads out of the prairie grasslands; to once again, reflect the *joy and beauty* of spring. The MIRACLE, and the continued RENEWAL of life!! Our winter counts for the last few years will be pandemic scored. This year, will be the beginning of new awareness. Law lodges are taking place all over buffalo country. LIFE persists, clings on, no matter what...

Where did the months go? Glad as I am, that the days are getting longer, these past 12 weeks have zoomed by. AND; it seems everyone I talk to; colleagues, families, friends, clients, relatives; it is the same message. Its as if the 2 ½ year pandemic did not exist; YET, the work that was not able to be done during that time; is expected to be completed *together with* whatever work was planned since the restrictions lifted. *We all need a break* LOL, especially in; Turkey and the Ukraine. Lord have mercy....

How could any of us cope without Creator? I generally cover a number of people and places in my prayers everyday; however, I have had to greatly depend on others this past while, to pray for me. Our agency works *within* a number of different governmental systems and procedures; and; together with an election coming up shortly, we inevitably find our reporting formats thrown into a tailspin.

HOWEVER; always; at the forefront, no matter what, is our children and families. Tracking their journey, is another story, within the complexity of the current paradigms. More to the point, is everything getting better in the long run? YES! How this is happening; is often the mystery! We always have a plan; as most people see from our calendars; however, how that gets played out on a daily basis; really depends, on what happens that day. Especially; when severely traumatized people come through our doors; we need to stop and turn our attention towards them; whereupon, more that one staff, may be engaged. Sometimes, we may have a critical or noteworthy incident on our hands.

January 2023, began with major legal matters; then to staff on medical leave; then to new financial people coming on; then to becoming the Edmonton Indigenous Community Entity for Housing Canada; then to providing a memorial ceremony for one of the Principals at a nearby school, (who had engaged the students there into learning the Braiding Sweetgrass curriculum). Last week, we had our lovely Kiwani Owapi celebration in the tipi on the first floor of The Orange Hub (TOH); followed by a scathing letter from government sent late Friday afternoon. Walk in beauty; our children are watching.

To our shock and surprise, our young people read a Mohawk story together on sexual abuse in the tipi; with adults, parents and grandparents in attendance. This was followed with, a *real soulful sharing circle*, where *everyone let their tears flow, in a good way*. Then; after smudging, these same youth, went on to painting the long awaited Clifford George Pompana Indigenous Transpersonal Therapy Library-Snug. And so it goes...from one day to the next at Red Road's Indigenous West Pte Oyate Family Resource Network. We are *ALL* on this journey together! We have a plan, so does Creator for each and everyone of us.

Interspersed with the above, was also our annual Valentine's Basket Draw celebration, 12 Step Meetings, Birthday Celebrations, Moon Gatherings, Men's Time, Beading with Tamlyn, HF2, Baby Bonding, Counselling, Legal Services, Youth Thursday Afternoons, Ceremony, Family Violence Sharings, Lodge Teachings, Legal Gatherings, Longhouse, Stoney Language Lessons, Triple P and Positive Indian Parenting.



Meetings continue for our 3rd Annual Transformative Reconciliation Gathering August 27-30, 2023.

The next planning meeting is April 19th 2023, 9 to 11 AM.

As many are aware, at our Transformative Reconciliation Gatherings, we are working on an Indigenous law bundle for Turtle Island (amongst other objectives), that encapsulates the overarching ethical principles of our Indigenous *natural law*. That is; our values, ethics, principles, traditions, ceremonies, world views, visions, dreams, and conduct; that pronounces who we are as Indigenous people; where we come from...what we hold sacred. So that; we might walk in a sacred manner, a sacred way, a principled approach; within a balanced mindset, so as to embrace the beauty of life...*in a perfect world*...

For our Lacohtah, Wiping of the Tears, came from Curtis Kills Ree and Burgis Kills Straight, Lakota Sioux Elders, who 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 then practiced for 4 years, (as is requisite for new visions that become ceremony), for our people. The first formal Wiping of the Tears came in 1990, at a place called Wounded Knee in South Dakota. I have spoke about this, many times.

Unfortunately, compounded grief is a norm in our Indigenous society; especially after Covid 19. Generally, we do not get the 4 days after losing a loved one or going through great trauma, to heal; before life or loved ones are demanding something else from us. Hence; we live in an unbalanced society that generally has poor decision-making ability, because we have not had

the requisite time to heal. All people require this, so we can again walk with Creator...walk in a sacred manner and embrace the beauty of everyday life! ...*in a perfect world LOL...in the meantime...we do the best we can with what we have...and try to be kind to one another...*

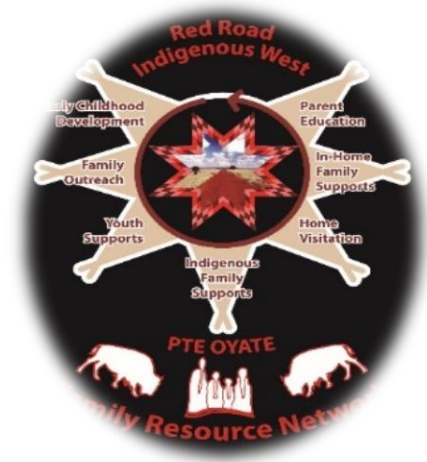
Our calendar is posted on website and facebook. **Join us** where and when you can. AND YES, we are not perfect... We STILL have all kinds of tech issues...our landline phones are generally good tho' the message is not always up to date...our website is STILL an ongoing construct...though it is getting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

More from my hero Richard Wagamese, What Comes From Spirit 2021

WE ALL HAVE STORIES within us. Sometimes we hold them gingerly, sometimes desperately, sometimes as gently as an infant. It is only by sharing our stories, by being strong enough to take a risk—both in the telling and in the asking---that we make it possible to know, recognize and understand each other.

Mitakuye Oyasín

Red Road



7 sacred values of Lakota Sioux: Love, Courage, Honesty, **Generosity**, Chastity, Silence, Respect

April Calendar and Easter Message coming forthwith!