

## SUMMERTIME

HIHANNI Was'te!

Slowly, I learn a new word here and there of our beautiful language! Good morning!

Its sweltering hot...then chilly billy....the weather certainly affects us ALL...those with pre-existing health issues...even more so...AND generally, *those folks*, are the ones that smile the most...have a positive DISPOSITION...*those* are the real warriors!!

Enoch and Alexis had their respective pow-wows last weekend! So great to see our many young people initiated into dancing! AND our grandmothers and grandfathers honouring the spirit of dance!

THE SUMMER WENT WITH FIRES & FLOODS-MANY WERE EVACUATED TO FORT MAC- ST ALBERT AND EDMONTON...

There were more ceremonies than any other season ever.... So many were praying for those who lost everything...others were gathering resources...and betwixt and between all this is TRAUMA TRAUMA TRAUMA that is merely accelerated during these types of events

HOWEVER as you all know - that read this-we are still here...

Elder Terry Lusty spoke yesterday at the Truth and Reconciliation...one of the few around that went to residential school all his life...who never went home...he said there are hardly any of us left...my late husband...now gone 2 ½ years...in Oak River (Sioux Valley) dayschool - then residential school - then the military...born with polio...lost his hearing...breathing issues...heart issues...Manitoba-Minnesota born...tough guys...and still they BELIEVED and held ceremony

HOWEVER, there is beauty in all this → RED ROAD summer kids camp this year was AWESOME, songs, sharing circles, visits, back to school event, hikes, space science, spray

parks, our third transformative reconciliation gathering at River Cree, with Enoch and Alexis and James Smith First Nations , our first Horse Dance and now we are in the national truth and reconciliation weekend.

I went south for many ceremonies this year...after not being able to for 25 years. We had a lot of sickness in our family; we had ceremony at home; however, we did not wander too far. Ceremonies for law, for healing, for education, for renewal. As a widow, it has been vital for me to do this; especially for my grandchildren. I lost many relatives in the last few years (as have others). It is so important that we are patient and compassionate with one another. I can only do this when I take the time myself; to remember, restore, and renew inside and outside. As our Elderlies say, there is no beginning or end; you are constantly within the flow of life. Such a beautiful thing to see folks grow, have families, have extended families...we hope to continually make a difference in urban and non-urban Indigenous...that we will embrace more of our similarities and honour one another's differences. That we will hold those values close to our hearts that bring LIFE and the renewal of LIFE...

Richard Wagamese shares from [EMBERS 2016](#)

I know MOUNTAINS because I have stood on precipices and breathed. I know prairie because I have lain on my back and be absorbed by the sky. I know the oceans because I have immersed myself in it and felt the pull of the current. If I want to know life, I need to experience its wonder and breathe it in with every breath. If I want to know possibility, I need to see its immensity and allow it to absorb me. If I want to know faith, I need to surrender to it and feel it pulling me in its unseen direction.

Triple P Parenting, Positive Indian Parenting, Cultural Creations with Tamlyn, Stoney Language Classes with Lyndon, Food Programs, Housing Program (Bissell), Indigenous Court, Recovery Sharing Circle (Family Violence), Men's Gathering on Thursday evening, Friends of Bill W and Friends of Lois W NOONERS Monday and Wednesday; Thursday Afternoon Young Peoples Time (as children get out of school early on Thursday); such as, Walking in the River Valley (exercise with our counselors and Elders), sharing circles-crafts, field trips (Zoo, Space Science, Muttart), and children's programs; such as the adolescent program. Scuttlebutt Café, Lodge Teachings (Elders)....are all currently available....get involved!!!

Our calendar and events are posted on the [www.redroadjourney.ca](http://www.redroadjourney.ca) website and facebook. **Join us** where and when you can. AND YES, we are still not perfect... We continue to have all kinds of tech issues...our landline phones are generally good; tho' the message is not always up to date... AND please, use the 780 471 3221 number; the 780 471 3220 works periodically....our website is an ongoing construct...though it is getting easier to navigate!!! Once again it is [www.redroadjourney.ca](http://www.redroadjourney.ca)

In closing, a little more from Richard Wagamese, Embers, 2016

MY ELDERS SAY that the dream world is a reality; just as valid, just as vibrant, just as alive as the physical world. Dreams are not illusory things. They are meant to teach us, guide us. They ask us to use our intuition to interpret them. That's their biggest gift, returning us to our intuition, our highest level of thought. When we intuit, we think spiritually with a free flowing energy. In the physical world, that's where compassion is born-----the place where there are no differences. Dream big, bright and shining. Enjoy the images. Intuition will teach you meaning.

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

May the Creator of the Universe surround you with the **Courage**, to follow your dreams... to be the creator in your own life and the lives around you...

Mitakuye Oyasín

Red Road

