

## TRINITY LENTEN TALKING CIRCLES 2022 NEXT STEPS

It was good to complete the first six sessions in the booklet **LISTENING TO INDIGENOUS VOICES: A DIALOGUE GUIDE FOR JUSTICE AND RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS** published by Novalis for the Jesuit Forum in 2021. Feedback about the leadership provided by Nanockashee Jake Charles from the Chippewas of Georgina Island and the Haudenosaunee Grandmother Mim Harder has been very positive. I was impacted by Nanockashee's concern that his daughter attending high school might be targeted by non-Indigenous students if she brought this booklet to school to promote conversation and dialogue about the history of unjust practices and policies of governments and Christian churches. Nanockashee also shared some of his own experiences of racism in the not-so-distant past not so far from our communities. I was also impacted by Mim Harder's sharing with us the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address in a couple of different forms as well as her current work with youth in schools and her teachings for her own grandchildren. From my perspective as facilitator, it was awesome to listen to what you had learned during our gatherings together and the passion which you demonstrated to move forward in establish right relationships with Indigenous Peoples. The work completed by Doug Jarvie as the technical host made the movement into smaller Talking Circles and back into our plenary Talking Circles successful. His minor adjustments in balancing each of the Talking Circles was also appreciation. The Trinity Office Administrator Kelly Clarke ensured that each participant had the ZOOM link readily available to join these leaning events. This ZOOM format allowed us to meet without having to drive to our gathering and return home afterwards. One of our participants lives a little father north. Another young couple joined us from the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia.

In order to build our relationship with Nanockashee Jake Charles during the rest of spring and over the summer, smaller groups could make arrangements to connect and arrange for some outdoor activities with him on the traditional territories of the Chippewas of Georgina Island. Nanockashee Jake Charles can be reached by email at [firstnationculturaltours@gmail.com](mailto:firstnationculturaltours@gmail.com) and welcomes this opportunity to gather for less academic learning opportunities on the land and waters near his home.

Dave Gordon points out that W.I.N.D. (Weekly Indigenous News Digest) provides a very comprehensive list of activities and learning opportunities both in-person and online. Reviewing this information is not for the faint of heart and mind due to the sheer volume of these events listed 51 weeks of the year. Selecting even a few events can become a daunting task. Since the Anglican Church of the Redeemer has a well-established Indigenous Solidarity Working Group, this comprehensive resource can be accessed through [wind.redeemerchurch@gmail.com](mailto:wind.redeemerchurch@gmail.com) with the last publication being April 7, 2022. There are a host of learning opportunities during the summer that are fun to do with a small group.

---

Last year, Canada Day was celebrated in a different way following the identification of unmarked graves at a few residential schools. People organized walks in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples in communities from coast to coast to coast. Many wore Orange Shirts. I expect the same to be true this year.

**The Chippewas of Georgina Island just announced that their Pow Wow 2022 is planned to begin on Friday, September 22 at noon and to end on Saturday, September 23 at 8 pm at Sibbald Point Provincial Park.** If all is safe with respect to the waves of Covid infections, interested participants from various parishes could make carpool arrangements to attend. Pow Wows gather family, friends, and allies to a Sacred Circle to experience drumming and dancers in their regalia honouring Creator and the Ancestors as well as the accomplishments of members and the vulnerable in their respective communities. During all nations dances, everyone present can join the circle to celebrate the gifts of Creator and Mother Earth. Vendors will also have a wide range of foods and crafts for sale too.

**It would be good to complete the last five sessions in the fall. Following this Pow Wow, we could meet on Thursday evenings by ZOOM, beginning on September 29 and continuing October 6, 13, 20, and 27. Both Nanockashee Jake Charles and Mim Harder are available to provide leadership as our Indigenous Participants again.**

Orange Shirt Day has been celebrated on September 30 since 2011 and this year will become the second National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It would be good to connect with the Chippewas of Georgina Island as our closest neighbours in this part of Turtle Island to demonstrate our solidarity and respect for those grieving the children and youth who did not return to their families and Indigenous communities. Some parishes hold a ceremony, pray, and ring their church bells. It would be good to plan such an event for September 30, 2022.

For anyone interested, the Jesuit Forum is offering **FACILITATORS' TRAINING FOR LISTENING TO INDIGENOUS VOICES** through four ZOOM sessions on Tuesdays April 19, May 10 & 31, and Wednesday June 22 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. I can send you the topics for each session and a link to register. One session has already been completed but the Jesuit Forum is open to participants attend any of the other sessions.

Let me know what you think about these next steps. My email address is [davidapfranks@gmail.com](mailto:davidapfranks@gmail.com) and my cell phone number is 905-715-9997. I welcome any comments or suggestions.

Be safe. Be kind. Be generous as Creator is generous with us.