

Kikinaw – Our Home

Exciting news towards equity and excellence

Raising the Tipi

by Allison Hasselfield

On a beautiful afternoon in the bright sunshine, the SSCY Tipi was raised on May 24th. We were fortunate to welcome Knowledge Keeper Art Gordon, from Riding Mountain, who raised the Tipi and provided teachings along the way. Art, who has travelled all over the world making Tipis, impressed us with his graciousness, blunt honesty, and humility. We were also honoured by the participation of Stephanie Van Haute, who is Director of Patient Services for the Indigenous Health program for the WRHA, as well as being Elder Mary Wilson's skaabe-ikwe (spiritual helper).

Due to weather and special circumstances, there were several dates scheduled for the Tipi ceremony that ended up being cancelled. The event on May 24th was pulled together the day of, and would not have been possible without the cool-headedness of the organizers and the availability and enthusiasm of our volunteers. Thank you to everyone who participated!

If you would like to volunteer for an event like this in the future, please let us know at kikinaw@rccinc.ca.



Spring Equinox Ceremony

To celebrate the arrival of spring, Elder Mary Wilson led a ceremony for SSCY Centre staff on Thursday March 24th. 28 people attended the ceremony in the early morning outside of SSCY, where they participated in smudging, a pipe ceremony, and a teaching about springtime. After the ceremony, Elder Mary provided eagle feather brushing in the Atrium at SSCY for anyone who needed healing. There were also snacks available.

PLEASE JOIN US!

National Indigenous Peoples Day

On June 21st, SSCY Centre is hosting an event featuring Ray "Coco" Stevenson and the Walking Wolf Singers from Treaty One. Please come, eat, and celebrate with us!

RSVP for BBQ



Tuesday, June 21st, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

West Parking Lot, SSCY Centre
1155 Notre Dame Ave.
Winnipeg MB

BBQ feast to follow
performance
Rain or shine!

Upcoming learning opportunities with Knowledge Keeper Mary Wilson

Webinar



**On June 21, 2022
we celebrate
Summer Solstice,
as well as
National
Indigenous
Peoples Day.**

Each month, Knowledge Keeper (Elder) Mary Wilson leads a webinar for SSCY staff and clients. Everyone is encouraged to attend in order to increase their understanding of Indigenous culture, develop their skills of cultural safety and reflect on allyship and anti-racism. Each webinar takes place over the lunch hour: come, eat, discuss and learn! Please contact SSCY reception if you need a link to these events, or click [here](#) for the meeting link. You can also email kikinaw@rccinc.ca for more information.

Upcoming webinars

June 9th, 12-1 PM
July 14th, 12-1PM
August 11th, 12-1PM

Full Moon Ceremony

Full moon ceremonies are a monthly time of strength when women and two spirit individuals gather outdoors to celebrate the feminine energy of grandmother moon in ceremony. Men who wish to join can participate in a supportive role. If you are interested in learning more please [connect with Elder Mary](#).

Upcoming full moons

June 14
July 13
August 11
September 10

Attending Ceremony

by Chris Froese

There are many opportunities to join Knowledge Keeper, Mary Wilson in ceremony throughout the year. Some happen regularly, such as the monthly full moon ceremony, while others happen on a less frequent basis, like the spring Equinox celebration.

Special events, celebrations and honouring ceremonies have taken place at other times to mark important days like raising the Tipi, National Indigenous Peoples day and Truth & Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day. Keep an eye on your email as well as this newsletter for upcoming events.

At the end of April, several people gathered with Elder Mary and her skaabe-ikwe (helper), Stephanie, to make ribbon skirts. Ribbon skirts are long skirts decorated with coloured ribbon, and are often worn during ceremony. The skirts themselves symbolize the protection of the Tipi walls, and the colours of the ribbon on the skirts are meaningful to the wearer. They may be the person's spiritual colours or may represent another story to that person. Each skirt is unique. In the process of making these skirts, we were able to learn from and help each other, feast together and care for each other.

If you are interested in attending ceremony, you can speak to Elder Mary (her office on the main floor of SSCY Centre, and she is on site most Thursdays) or watch the newsletter for upcoming ceremonies.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

From Land Acknowledgements to Action Plans

by Kristy Wittmeier

"Have you ever heard a land acknowledgement statement and thought, "What's next?" Are you looking for ways to take meaningful action to support Indigenous people and nations?"

- Native Governance Centre

In this edition we highlight the work of the **Native Governance Centre (Minneapolis USA)**.

A GUIDE TO INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (<https://nativegov.org/news/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>) was released in 2019. The guide outlines the following key components of a Land Acknowledgement: 1) Start with self-reflection; 2) Do your homework; 3) Use appropriate language, and 4) Use past, present, and future tenses. This guide includes important information about each step, as well as other factors to consider when developing a Land Acknowledgement, including the need to build authentic relationships, and to ensure fair compensation for Indigenous people for emotional labour.

The guide emphasizes that Land Acknowledgements are a starting point, to be followed by personal action. This last point is important, as one caution or critique of Land Acknowledgements is that they can become simply "a box to tick" at a conference or meeting, and not linked to action or change. The Native Governance Centre noticed this in the questions they received after releasing the Guide. People and organizations reached out, requesting help to create a land acknowledgement. Few offered compensation or asked questions about action and creating change.

In response, the Native Governance Centre released a resource series in 2021; BEYOND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. Resources include a guide, videos, and written pieces that outline the why and how of going Beyond Land Acknowledgement. The resources provide step by step information to create a personal *specific, accurate, and impactful* Action Plan. Steps include 1) self-assessment, 2) resource assessment, and 3) research <https://nativegov.org/resources/beyond-land-acknowledgment-a-guide/>.

...Continued on p. 4

From Land Acknowledgements to Action Plans (continued)

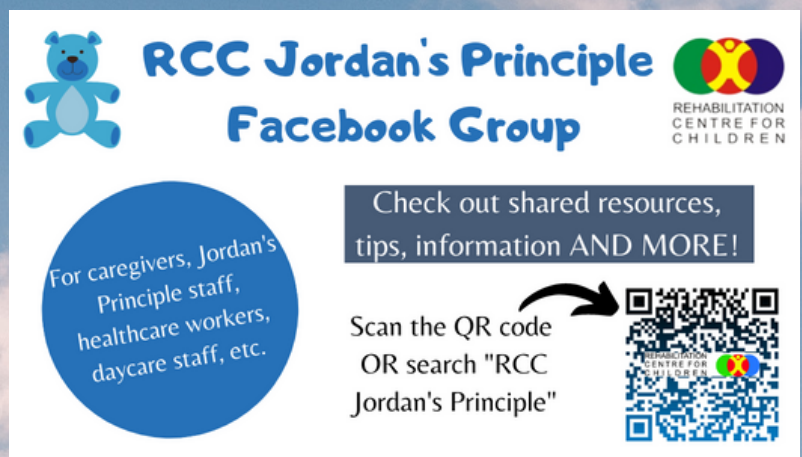
The following are words of advice from the creators of these resources:

"Instead of spending time on a land acknowledgment statement, we recommend creating an action plan highlighting the concrete steps you plan to take to support Indigenous communities into the future. Similar to a land acknowledgment, your plan will include information and research on the land you occupy, but it will primarily focus on action. Is it wrong to write a land acknowledgment statement? No. But if you do, your statement should highlight a strong call to action and action steps; it should encourage your audience to create their own steps, too."

You can find the guides, videos, and self-assessment here: https://nativegov.org/resources/?sft_resource_topic=land-acknowledgement.

The Kikinaw Newsletter is put together by a small group from the Jordan's Principle / Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee. If you are interested in contributing to this publication, please email us at kikinaw@rccinc.ca.

We always welcome feedback, so please contact us with any questions or concerns.



The graphic is a promotional poster for the 'RCC Jordan's Principle Facebook Group'. At the top left is a blue teddy bear icon. To its right is the text 'RCC Jordan's Principle Facebook Group' in blue. Further right is the logo for the 'REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR CHILDREN', which consists of three overlapping circles in green, yellow, and red. Below the title, on the left, is a blue circle containing the text 'For caregivers, Jordan's Principle staff, healthcare workers, daycare staff, etc.' On the right, there is a dark blue rectangular box with the text 'Check out shared resources, tips, information AND MORE!'. Below this box, it says 'Scan the QR code OR search "RCC Jordan's Principle"'. An arrow points from this text to a QR code on the right side of the graphic. The QR code has the 'REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR CHILDREN' logo in the center.

Jordan's Principle / Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Jordan's Principle / Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee is to ensure that RCC is providing culturally safe and culturally appropriate services with and for Indigenous clients and families and is facilitating the ongoing movement towards First Nations-led health services. The Committee was formed in 2018 and since then has spearheaded many initiatives across the SSCY Centre and beyond, including education, outreach and special events.

The Kikinaw Newsletter is the latest endeavour of the Committee, to inform SSCY staff, families and partners about all our activities. In this newsletter we share reflections from cultural activities around the SSCY Centre, let you know about upcoming events, and share quality and equity initiatives. In each edition we share reflections on teachings from our Elders and Knowledge Keepers in the previous season as well as resources that may be helpful in your work and personal lives.

Committee Members:

Pam Becker, Jeanette Edwards, Chris Froese, Allison Hasselfield, Michelle Klippenstein, Diana Renaud, Maynan Robinson, Grandmother Helen Robinson-Settee, Cheryl Susinski, Knowledge Keeper Mary Wilson, Dianna Watts, Kristy Wittmeier