

IFNMI21-148 Reconciliation Beyond Apologies; Hope Beyond Wishful Thinking



PRESENTED BY

**Kevin John, Dr. Kevin wâsakâyâsiw Lewis,
Jenny Thomson, Clifford Cardinal, Rhett
Sangster & Heart of Treaty 6 Panelists**



SERIES SESSIONS

Date	Time
May 17, 2021	3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
May 18, 2021	3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
May 19, 2021	3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
May 20, 2021	3:30 PM – 4:30 PM



LOCATION

Online - Your Computer

FEE

\$75.00

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Program

This series is about creating hope for advancing reconciliation. “In moments when we stagger and begin to doubt the worthiness of our mission, hope pulls us through. Hope is a match in a dark tunnel, a moment of light, just enough to reveal the path ahead and ultimately the way out.” (Dr. Judith Rich) Hope Is Greater than Optimism. While an optimist is a person who is generally hopeful even the most pessimistic person can still be hopeful about something. Hope is a process. Hope links your past and present to the future. Hope is very specific and focused, “To be hopeful involves motivation, planning, and determination to get what one hopes.” Hope puts YOU in control. (Dr. Valerie Maholmes)

Session 1: [May 17, 3:30-4:30 pm] *Kevin John: Truth, Hope, and Trust – The Foundations of Reconciliation*..This presentation will highlight the challenges and importance of Truth on our paths to Reconciliation and cast a wide net of safety over our vulnerabilities, while offering listeners a renewed sense of Hope, and Trust, regardless of where you are on your Reconciliation Journey.

Session 2:[May 18, 3:30-4:30 pm] Dr. Kevin Lewis: Reconciliation Through the Power of Language and Land Based Camps

. The call of the wild seems to have increased in these times of isolation and COVID measures. In this session, Dr. Lewis will go through ideas, programs and land based activities that could possibly motivate people to venture out into our forests, to the rivers, lakes and streams. There are so many beautiful places in Canada. These activities will be braiding reconciliation, Indigenous Languages and Land Based programming.

Session 3: [May 19, 3:30-4:30 pm] Jenny Thomson & Clifford Cardinal: Open Source Students - Open Hearts, Open Eyes, and Open Minds.

This is the story of a student lead journey towards understanding Reconciliation. It is a journey that has been facilitated by a non-Indigenous teacher and administration who didn't have all the answers the students were asking. How does one teach reconciliation in a truly meaningful and impactful way when coming from a small rural community that is primarily non-Indigenous? Our guiding question has always been, "What does it mean when we say that we are all Treaty people", and this question, along with allowing the students to lead their learning is what has led us on a very unique and fulfilling school experience in understanding that Reconciliation is possible and that the students hold the key to positive change.

Session 4: [May 20, 3:30-4:30 pm] Rhett Sangster: The Heart of Treaty Six Reconciliation Committee: Nurturing Hope by Forging Local Community Partnerships

Based on the Saskatchewan Office of the Treaty Commissioner's Visionary framework for Truth and Reconciliation, the Heart of Treaty 6 Reconciliation Committee began when a group of individuals, community-based organizations, governments, and businesses from Onion Lake Cree Nation, Lloydminster, Frog Lake First Nation, and Poundmaker Cree Nation came together, discussing Reconciliation and what the Calls to Action can look like in the North West of Saskatchewan. Since December 2016 this diverse group has grown to over 50 individual and organizational members offering a powerful model for expanding community-based reconciliation engagement.

Presenters

Kevin John

Kevin John is a Treaty member of Onion Lake Cree Nation and an avid outdoorsman with a broad variety of interests, including the learning and teaching opportunities he has experienced through coaching a variety of sports, volunteering in the community, and sitting on various committees in a local church and the surrounding communities. Kevin is the 8th of 8 children, a passionate advocate of Truth and Reconciliation, founder of They Build Bridges-Asokanihkewak, and has been speaking and presenting on a variety of Indigenous Relations topics for almost 20 years. Kevin was born and raised in Vermilion Alberta, and brings a unique perspective out of his life's experience of being Indigenous and raised in a rural non-Indigenous community. Kevin and his wife of 32 years, Alesa, live with 5 of their 6 children near Vermilion Alberta, as the oldest of their children is married and living near Vermilion.

Dr. Kevin wâsakâyâsiw Lewis

Dr. Kevin wāsakâyāsiw Lewis is a nēhiyaw (Plains Cree) instructor, researcher, and writer from Ministikwan Lake Cree Nation in Treaty 6 Territory. Dr. Lewis has worked with higher learning institutions within the Prairie Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta in Indigenous Language Development and Instructional methodologies. Dr. Lewis has worked with community schools in promoting land and language-based education and is the founder of kaniyāsikh Culture Camps <https://kaniyasihkculturecamps.com/> a non-profit organization focused on holistic community wellbeing. He is also a co-developer of Land-Based Cree Immersion School kâ-nēyāsikh mikiwâhpa.

Jenny Thomson

Jenny Thomson was born and raised on an acreage in Wainwright, AB. Started teaching later in life after working as a freelance camera assistant in the film industry across western Canada and spending 5 years teaching English in China. Now the mom to two busy boys, the transient lifestyle of film and traveling abroad has morphed into teaching at the Irma School, where I try to use my past experience in all my classes. This is my 6th year teaching and I have been fortunate to have taken over the Band program in Irma School while still being able to teach Humanities where my love of Social Studies and History can be brought to my students.

Clifford Cardinal

Clifford Cardinal is a Plains Cree person from the Saddle Lake Cree Nation located in north eastern Alberta. Clifford holds a B.ED. degree and currently teaches the Cree language and culture courses at the St. Paul Regional High School. Clifford holds many teachings around the history and cultural traditions that have been passed down to him from generations ago. The knowledge he shares has been shared with blessings from the elders of his community.

Rhett Sangster

Rhett Sangster is the Director, Reconciliation and Community Partnerships with the Saskatchewan Office of the Treaty Commissioner, coordinating efforts to engage both the public and community leaders on the nature of reconciliation in Saskatchewan. This process aims to work with as many partners as possible to identify shared priorities and a broadly-owned vision for the future.

Heart of Treaty 6 Panelists

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