

## Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee report - Fall 2025

The Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee has the specific role of educating and mobilizing CRC members and congregations to live in reconciled relationships as covenant (treaty) people before our Creator with a focus on reconciling the relationship between Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people in Canada.



**Hearts Exchanged** is a learning journey designed to lead CRC members on a path to improved relations with their Indigenous neighbors. Hearts Exchanged is continuing this fall with an East-West online cohort. People are also being encouraged to establish in-person cohorts within their local communities and churches. For the first time, 'community of practice' cohorts are being established for Hearts Exchanged Alumni who want to advance their reconciliation journeys. Ministry staff will support these cohorts in their endeavors to build



relationships with their Indigenous neighbors. Exchanges with peer-congregations will enhance the sharing of ideas, best practices and resources. Grants for appropriate local initiatives such as book studies, hosting Indigenous speakers and participating in local Indigenous events will be available.

Please contact Hearts Exchanged staff at [hearts\\_exchanged@crcna.org](mailto:hearts_exchanged@crcna.org) for more information or assistance in planning initiatives.

CRC Indigenous Ministries recently hosted a training session for the **Kairos Blanket Exercise**, and we are grateful to now have many trained facilitators across Canada. The Blanket Exercise is a powerful interactive learning experience that explores the history and ongoing impact of colonization from an Indigenous perspective. We encourage CRC congregations to consider hosting a Blanket Exercise in your church, workplace, or community as a step toward truth, reconciliation, and healing.

Hearts Exchanged Alumni and current participants took advantage of two '**On the Land Learning**' sessions in south-western Ontario. These sessions, which were facilitated by Adrian Jacobs who is the senior leader for Indigenous Justice and Reconciliation, reinforce the importance of God's creation to Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike. This past March, attendees immersed themselves in creation's beauty by gathering and moving chopped wood. They also spent time gathering the sweet nectar of maple trees and delivering it to an evaporator so it could be refined into syrup. Metis elder Dave Skene explained the intricacies of the boiling process and shared stories of the land, the Carolinian forest and the 'dish with One Spoon' wampum belt. Adrian Jacobs led another 'On the Land Learning' session in May at the Six Nations reserve. Adrian used the example of a local gypsum mine to explain how the environment can be harmed by the extraction industry. He also spent time discussing various Haudenosaunee wampum belts and their associated histories and stories.



Adrian Jacobs speaks to 'On the Land Learning' participants.



On the Land Learning at the sugar bush.

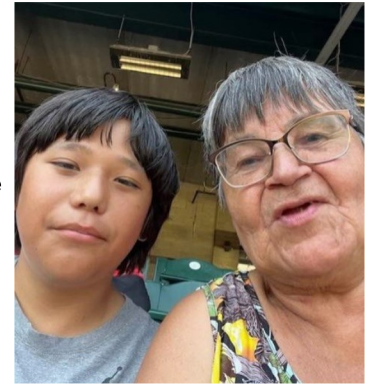


Metis Elder Dave Skene explains the maple syrup process.

## Urban Indigenous Ministries

Your prayers and gifts help sustain these ministries so they can continue to be a place of hope and healing in their respective communities. They would not exist without your continued support.

The **Winnipeg Indigenous Family Centre** continues to connect with community members by facilitating sharing circles, traditional Indigenous crafts and hamper distributions. The centre has also been able to offer family programs such as bingo nights and beach days. Shannon Perez, who is the director of the centre, is appreciative of local organizations that support the centre such as the Winnipeg Goldeyes baseball team. The team answered the request for game tickets for the centre's Kids Club program by providing more tickets than the centre could use. The centre offers a unique program called 'Circle of Security', that utilizes horses to teach parenting skills. This program has proven to be effective for Indigenous parents who were never parented themselves due to childhoods spent in residential schools. This parenting program followed the establishment of a similar program for children called "Stable Connections". In partnership with a local horse ranch, this program utilizes animal assisted therapy to help Indigenous children deal with stress.



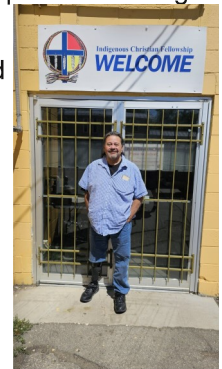
Grandmother and Grandson  
enjoy a baseball game together.

August witnessed a phenomenal change at the **Regina Indigenous Christian Fellowship Centre**. After 32 years as the executive director of the centre, Bert Adema has retired and passed the reins to Joe Elkerton. Joe is a member of the Chippawas of the Thames First Nation. Joe's parents, who both survived the trauma of Indian residential school, abandoned him as a child



Bert Adema  
Retired director

and he ended up living on the street. His life on the streets was miraculously transformed when he was introduced to Jesus. Joe began working with the Salvation Army and eventually became pastor of an Indigenous church which has blossomed into the Ekklesia International Ministry. Joe started a safe house for female victims of human trafficking and has helped Indigenous families navigate the child welfare system. Along with certificates in recreational leadership and business, Joe holds a Bachelor of Religious Education from Tyndale University.



Joe Elkerton  
New director

A major part of the **Edmonton Native Healing Centre's** (ENHC) programming involves the provision of basic needs for local people. Food hampers from the Edmonton food bank are distributed at the centre 2 times per week. The centre also provides opportunities for community members to learn new recipes with the bonus of taking home the prepared dishes. Wednesdays are soup and Bannock days where attendees gather in prayer before consuming between 60-90 bowls of soup. Pastor Harold Roscher, who directs the centre, is clear that the centre



Building community  
together at the ENHC

goes beyond just providing food. The centre's staff include 2 mental health counsellors and Radius Health, which partners with the ENHC, uses the centre to provide medical health clinics 3 days per week. The centre is currently renovating their prayer room under the banner of 'Strengthening our Spirit'. The grand opening of the space, scheduled for October 1, 2025, will enhance the centre's ability to address the prayer and ceremony needs of the community.



Kids camp run by the Edmonton Native Healing Centre