

My relatives!

I was burdened greatly by the deaths of those around me...but by incorporating their suffering into our lives does not change the way of the world.....

Levon Helm, *The Band*

Actor of Civil War General in *In the Electric Mist* 2009 with Tommy Lee Jones (Cherokee)

This is one of my favorite quotes; and it particularly comes into context this past December, January February when so many relatives have left for the spirit world. It seemed everyday another person had lost someone. Many unfortunately through addiction and co-addiction; however, by incorporating their suffering into our daily life does not change the way of the world.

I reflect on post WW II, my parents time, the number lost in that war and the wars to follow. And the losses in spirit of those that did return with shell shock and other maladies that split their wholeness; together with our people deeply affected by residential and day school systemic traumas; often resulting in negative coping skills of; addiction, co addiction, compounded grief...melancholic existences that sap life.

However; we are more than that, we make relatives, we keep and release souls; we have those ceremonies that help us be resilient to 'the pain of the past' and 'the fear of the future'. We keep moving forward as our ghost dance prophesized; as our laws have indicated; UNDRIP, TRC.

This past December 2019, we moved our memorial round dance to the west end not knowing what to expect, as we have had it in the east end for years. Please see our photos of our round dance at the Turkish Canadian Society hall here in the west end.

We have no bead on the future with *all* early intervention contracts being cut at the end of March 2020; however, this past year, Red Road and The Orange Hub (TOH) programs and services have continued to grow and expand. Friends of Bill W and Friends of Lois W nooners are particularly well attended. People often go from these programs to other services in the agency and the community. Such as; longhouse, literacy, baby bonding, beading, ceremony, counselling, crafting, food, health for two, legal services, outreach, referrals, sewing, storytelling, therapy and our Kiwani Owapi March 17, 2020.

We have a Red Road friend who wants to open his space, to teach sustainable planting, gardening and harvesting; as well as, have youth come out and live on (and with) the land for awhile. This may involve a youth exchange and memorial horse back ride and ceremony.

Hence; there is as A LOT going on at Red Road; although, as mentioned previously. No one knows the prevailing wind with respect to government funding in the future.

The contest is never quite over; the field never quite ours...

Levon Helm, *The Band*

Actor of Civil War General in *In the Electric Mist* 2009 with Tommy Lee Jones (Cherokee)

Nevertheless, we will carry on and do the best we can with what we have!

Please see our March 2020 Calendar on www.redroadjourney.ca and facebook; and please join us for some of these events.

Mitakuye Oyasin!

Joanne Lethbridge Pompana

THE RED ROAD HEALING SOCIETY

Where does the time go? Well some of us say that time is only measured from one great synchronous moment to the next...or possibly only the time we truly remember...