



Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

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A Second Home by Gail Larson, Administrative Assistant

I have worked for the Centre for 20 years and enjoy meeting the many people that have come to stay at the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. Groups find this to be a safe, peaceful, relaxing, and comfortable place to come. Most of our groups return on a regular basis because they feel this is like their second home.

Groups stay for a weekend either for meetings or retreats. Others come for a week at a time and make this place their home. Whichever it is they all find comfort here. We have groups that come 4 times a year for healing retreats; they have sweats, feasts, and sharing circles. We have seasonal ceremonies which are open to all who wish to come. This is a time for a sweat and a feast to honor the changing of the season.

The grounds are open with a park like setting. The river surrounds us on 3 sides and the meadow opens up to the river. This is a wonderful place to spend time with friends, coworkers, family and others.

We take care of the people who come to stay with us, feeding them healthy home cooked meals, traditional and other. We provide a menu for vegetarian, vegan, diabetic, gluten free and any other special diet required.

We have 3 lodges with comfortable single and some double rooms for our guests to sleep in while they stay with us at the Centre. Some United Church Women's Groups have donated handmade quilts for the beds over the years which make the rooms cozy. We supply linens and towels for our guests staying overnight. We have 2 shared bathrooms in each lodge.

Our meeting space is large and comfortable with a fireplace and many windows. Couches along the side make this spot very inviting to people. The dining room has large windows and round tables for you to share meals with others in your group. We serve you buffet style meals from the open area of our kitchen which is just off the dining room.

We are happy to see all who come and stay with us at SSSC.

To book our Centre for your next event, contact Rob Smith at 204-268-3913, Robert@sandysaulteaux.ca



New Faces at the Centre



Here's our team on a sunny spring day:

Gail Larson (Administrative Assistant), Sandy MacGean (Bookkeeper), Deanna Zantingh (Keeper of the Learning Circle), Erica Young (Business Assistant), Robert Smith (Keeper of the Centre), Adrian Jacobs (Keeper of the Circle). Our three newest members of the team introduce themselves below.

Keeper of the Learning Circle

My name is Deanna Lorene Zantingh and I am pleased to join the team and the vision of the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre as the Keeper of the Learning Circle. I was born and raised in a farming family in Smithville, Ontario, the traditional lands of the Six Nations peoples. Growing up on a farm instilled within me a deep love for creation, and I have always loved that both of my names reflect this. Deanna means Divine Nature and Lorene comes from a sweet bay laurel tree. I am the middle of five children and a proud aunt of ten nieces and nephews. On my paternal side I am a third generation Dutch immigrant to Turtle Island from the north east corner of the Netherlands. My mother was raised in the United Church, and on my maternal side I come from both a Scottish MacDougall clan and a line of Pennsylvanian-Dutch/United Empire Loyalists.

I was raised in the Christian Reformed Church but have also gained a deep appreciation for a number of other traditions as I have spent time within them. In my early twenties I spent time with a Christian youth leadership program in Mexico, Peru, and in the inner city of Los Angeles. These were formative years for me, and through them God opened my eyes to see and understand unjust social patterns at work in my own context, particularly in

regard to the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island. Most shocking for me was learning about the Guswentah, or the two-row wampum signed between the Dutch and Six Nations peoples in a spirit of peace, respect, and friendship in 1613.

For the last six years I have been living in Winnipeg, Manitoba and studying at Canadian Mennonite University. I completed a B.A. in Peace and Conflict Transformation and am nearing the completion of my masters in theological studies this coming fall. Throughout that time I have also co-directed a children's summer camp and youth leadership program with Mishkeegogamang First Nation in Northern Ontario. My friendships in that community have been a profound gift in my life and have also had a formative effect on my life journey. There is indeed a great cloud of witnesses that has surrounded me and brought me to my work at Sandy-Saulteaux. I like to think I bring a part of all of them into the circle with me. Having now completed my first two learning circles, I have a deeper understanding and appreciation for my responsibility to the students in the learning circle as we all enter as both teachers and learners together.

Keeper of the Centre

The name my parents gave me is Robert Ivan Smith. Robert means "Bright Fame". I always try to bring a positive light to my work as a bright flame. I am not sure about the fame part. Ivan means "God is Gracious". I try to be very gracious each day for the creation that Creator God has given us. Smith means "Worker in Metal". I think of the bible passage from Micah chapter 4 verse 3 "He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide for strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more;".

The names my children gave me are daddy and dad. The name my grandchildren have given me is grandad.

The name that my professional association gave me last year was Chartered Professional Accountant and the name they gave me 31 years ago was Certified General Accountant.

The names that I have had with my congregation called the Pinawa Christian Fellowship in my community of Pinawa have been Chair of the General Committee and Treasurer. My congregation in Pinawa is a shared ecumenical ministry of the United Church of Canada, Anglican Church of

Canada, Presbyterian Church of Canada and Mennonite Church Manitoba. We are quite congenial to each other for a couple of hours on Sunday morning. Pinawa means "Calm Waters" of the Winnipeg River which is where I like to paddle my canoe.

The names that Selkirk Presbytery has given me in the past are Chair and member of Education and Students and Chair of Selkirk Presbytery. The names that the conference of Manitoba and Northwest Ontario has called me are Educational Supervisor and member of the Internship and Educational support committee and member of Education and Students.

The name Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre gave me is Keeper of the Centre. I feel very honoured and humble to have been given this name to be a support to the other employees, students and visitors of the Centre. Since I started at the Centre there have been a number of visitors that have kept the Centre busy. We have had Aboriginal Health and Wellness, Sunrise School division, Canadian Churches Forum, Prairie Jubilee and classes for our students. I have had a learning about the Sweat Lodge ceremony and a healing circle where some tears were shed.

Business Assistant

My name is Erica Young and I joined the staff team at SSSC over the winter on a part time basis. My role is to help connect with present and future supporters of Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre – by sharing our story in print, online and through social media, by promoting the facilities available for rent and the events we host, and by seeking funding opportunities.

I came to Sandy-Saulteaux with a lifetime involvement in United Church congregations and a variety of work experience with non-profit organizations like the Manitoba

Eco-Network, Local Investment Toward Employment and Food Matters Manitoba. When I'm not at SSSC, you can find me a little ways up the river at Ploughshares Community Farm. My spring, summer and fall are full of garden work, growing vegetables for customers in Beausejour, Pinawa and Winnipeg. It is a pleasure to pair the digging, planting, weeding, watering and harvesting of running a market garden with tasks that support the nurturing of Indigenous leadership and cross-cultural education at SSSC.

Come and Stay at the SSSC Meet, Celebrate, Learn or Just be

We want to share the beauty of our space here on the banks of the Brokenhead River. The Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre offers a peaceful setting for meetings, retreats, weddings, conferences, school group outings, traditional ceremonies and more. We have a spacious meeting hall, dining room and guest rooms for overnight accommodations. You can set your own schedule or ask us about the cross-cultural programming we offer to deepen your understanding of Aboriginal culture.

Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry

by Jonathan Schmidt

How would you describe your own culture?

What if a church's outreach to a diverse neighbourhood, hosting a refugee family, or right relations with indigenous peoples started not with an evangelism strategy, a sponsorship agreement or an apology... but first with that question?

The Canadian Churches Forum (CCF), a program agency of the Canadian Council of Churches, has found the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre a very good place to ask that question. CCF's "Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry" (DUIM) program is a 5 day gathering of people of faith committed to right relationships across difference. They are often surprised to discover that the program doesn't make them experts on other cultures. Instead the program focuses on participants understanding who they are and how that shapes relationship.

That's not always easy work. In fact, it can be deeply unsettling. Paulette Regan in her book "Unsettling the Settler Within" talks about the residential schools calling into question a "core tenet of Canadian identity—that we are a nation of peacemakers".

Unsettling as it is, it is also joyful work. It is what we do to be humble enough to listen to the other as we seek right relationship. Not only do we ask, 'what is our culture'? We also ask, how does our culture, our way of being, prevent right relationship? And we discover we have many resources, including in our culture, to be in right relationship. And we joyfully live a faith that has at its core right relationship. We live as a people transformed.

When this program has been held at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre the participants have been a collection from across Canada of descendants of European settlers, newer immigrants, and indigenous peoples. The most profound experience of the program is the tensions and joys of being in relationship across the cultural and other differences in the group. The program includes learning how culture works and how our faith calls us to be in relationship not just with each other, but with all of creation and with the creator. Early in the program we engage the challenging work of looking at how we relate to power and privilege. Together we explore and name the culture of Canada, of our denominations, and of our ministry contexts. Then, we practice engaging across cultural differences and envision how we would create spaces where our home communities might do similar work. Every step of the way we are accompanied by resource people and facilitators, an intercultural mentor, the land, ritual and worship, and the wisdom and experience of the participants.

The Canadian Churches Forum is grateful for the opportunity to use the facilities, be on the land, and be in relationship with the people of the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. This partnership provides profound moments of learning and changed relationship. Join others on this path as the DUIM program is offered at Sandy-Saulteaux and other contexts across Canada: www.ccforum.ca/duim

Jonathan Schmidt is the director of the Canadian Churches Forum. Part of the team of people who design and facilitate the DUIM program he continues to be challenged and transformed by understanding the culture that shapes him and the diversity of our Canadian contexts.



DUIM participants at the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

Many groups come to the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre for meetings, retreats, ceremonies or educational events. Here's a sampling. We would love to host you too!



↑ "Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba led teachers from Sunrise School Division in treaty education. Our teachers created a treaty vest, one of the activities in the education kits created for teachers in Manitoba. The TRCM partnered with Sunrise SD to train 40 teachers and administrators in Treaty Education. The two-day workshop involves both oral and written histories, Elder teachings, Curriculum and Instruction overview and learning how to use a kit developed by the TRCM for K to 12 classrooms. The kits and the two-day training meet some of the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The SSSC proved to be the ideal location for the workshop." – Leslie Wakeman, K-12 Socially Responsible Citizenship Program Leader



↑ "The Prairie Jubilee Program is a two-year training program for Spiritual formation and Spiritual Direction. Students in this program have two week long residencies at SSSC each year. A follow-up program called "Deepening" also meets at SSSC twice a year. When in a time of discernment about where Prairie Jubilee would be located having met at The Calling Lakes Centre (now closed), the Leaders visited SSSC and have told us 'when we stepped on the land we felt Spirit and knew this was where we were meant to be'. Leaders and students have also said 'we feel at home here and deeply appreciate the hospitality that is offered.'" – Cheryl Kinney Matheson, Prairie Jubilee Registrar & Director



↑ "Clergy from Selkirk Presbytery gathered at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre for an overnight retreat. It was a time to renew and refresh their spirits; a time to connect with colleagues personally and spiritually; a time to feel cared for and cared about; a time to prepare for the Advent journey. They came away feeling connected, rejuvenated, nurtured. The space and hospitality you provided at the Centre was perfect to create the opportunity for all of this to happen. The "feel" during our time there was very peaceful and open to the Spirit. It was great to be so close to creation. The facility was great and the food was delicious! As one of the participants said, 'I noticed again the beauty of this place even on a dreary weather day!'" – Gay Boese, Selkirk Presbytery Looking Outside the Box



↑ "I was given traditional teachings to offer them to others who want them and need them. When I was asked to help with the seasonal ceremonies at the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre (now Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre), I felt like I was home. This was where I was supposed to be. It was a perfect fit. I started looking after the four seasonal ceremonies and I've kept offering them – to honour the change of the seasons, to bring them in, in a good way." – Jamie, Firekeeper



Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre Annual Meeting

Where:

Gitsegukla United Church in South Hazelton, BC
Skyped to Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

When:

Saturday, September 24 at 2:00 p.m. BC time, 4:00 p.m. MB time

Please RSVP to sansau@mymts.net

From Apology towards Reconciliation

30th Anniversary of the United Church's Apology to First Nations Peoples

Storytelling & Feast at SSSC: All Native Circle Conference and the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, invite you to attend an event marking the 30th Anniversary of the United Church's Apology to First Nations Peoples. Come and hear about the actions leading to an Apology and to once again hear the words of the Apology and response from the Indigenous Church. Through storytelling and activities, we will have an opportunity to reflect on our history. In light of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we will have an opportunity to envision new possibilities for positive relationship and reconciliation. Please register on-line by August 5 so we know how many to expect at the Feast: form.jotform.com/61374717206253.

When:

Sunday, August 14, 2:00 p.m. ending with Feast at 5:00 p.m.

Where:

Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

Commemorative Service in Sudbury: At the site where the United Church's Apology to First Nations Peoples was given in Sudbury 30 years ago, you are invited to gather with representatives from the Indigenous church and Moderator Jordan Cantwell to honour the Apology. We will gather together at Huntington University (on the Laurentian campus) to begin the story. Then we will journey together to the cairn to mark what happened in 1986 and since, before moving forward together in reconciliation. Huntington University will host us for a meal afterwards.

When:

Saturday, August 20, 2:00–4:30 p.m., followed by a barbeque

Where:

935 Ramsay Lake Rd, Sudbury

To read more about the Apology and for worship resources to mark the Anniversary, visit united-church.ca

Learning Circles

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| October 17-21, 2016 | CE3 Diaconal Ministry |
| October 24-28, 2016 | H/CD4 Cultural History (Treaties, mission, fur trade) |
| January 16-20, 2017 | BS4 Daniel and Revelations |
| January 23-27, 2017 | CE4 Healthy Growth and Development (Self Care) |

For more events, visit sandsaulteaux.ca or follow us on  Facebook



Language is Life by Fiona Muldrew

Language describes worldview, the place we live, our culture and identity and that is why the revival of Indigenous languages is so important for Indigenous communities and reconciliation work. Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre has the opportunity to offer Indigenous Language Camps during the summer or weekend/day camps year round, for any school/group interested in Cree, Ojibwe or Oji-Cree language learning.

Many school divisions are starting up Bilingual Indigenous Language programs this September, including Ojibwe and Cree Kindergarten to Grade 3 classes in 7 Oaks School Division, Ojibwe and Cree Kindergarten in Winnipeg School Division and Grade 4 Ojibwe and Cree classrooms in Louis Riel School Division. Each year, new grades will be added to each of these programs. 7 Oaks is also offering

4 weeks of Ojibwe Immersion Day Camp (July 18-Aug. 12) at Riverbend School. Registration is geared to students but there may be room for parents, teachers and others. Contact fionamuldrew@hotmail.com for details.

SSSC would be an ideal spot for a day camp or live in Language Camp because of the gorgeous outdoor space for cultural and land-based learning, riverside flora and fauna, hall and cabins, cooking facilities (indoor and outdoor), sweat lodge learning, tenting space, plus amazing connections to fluent Indigenous language speakers and elders. Contact SSSC if you are interested in planning a language camp for your school/group or attending or volunteering at a language camp.

Fiona Muldrew is a volunteer with SSSC and an active supporter of Indigenous language and cultural education.

Keeper of the Circle Adrian Jacobs Visits Taiwan



Adrian Jacobs spoke at Pafu'isan Presbyterian Church among the Amis people of Taiwan. Here he is singing along in Amis with Panay Asing, his interpreter next to him, and her father, Pastor Asing at the other pulpit. Adrian said that singing along with SSSC students with the Cree Hymnal helped him sing along in the Amis song book.

Adrian's message was one of affirming the Creator given identity of the Amis people. He told the appreciative congregation that the Amis people will enter the City of God with all the glory of the Amis people and their leadership. When they sang their own style of music and not just Western hymns in the Amis language Adrian said he could shake his rattle to their rhythm. He also told the elder's choir it was easy to keep time with their singing too.

Adrian was part of The United Church of Canada's delegation to a conference on Indigenous issues at Yu

Shan Presbyterian Seminary. Adrian and SSSC student Deb Anderson Pratt joined representatives from the Presbyterian Church of Canada and the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan for this third conference. We look forward at SSSC to visits from the 16 Indigenous peoples of Taiwan.

After the week-long conference at the seminary Adrian stayed for another week visiting with Amis, Truku, Bunun, Paiwan and Rukai Indigenous pastors and leaders. Adrian feasted on snails, squid, prawns, fish, wild boar and many kinds of vegetables and fruit and got pretty handy with chopsticks. Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre is becoming more and more known around the world as we network with other Indigenous communities. Thank you for your support of all we do here at SSSC!



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- For General Student Bursary
- For I.C.L.E.F. (Saskatchewan Students)

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