



Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

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Seeing Creator and Creation with Two Eyes

How many eyes do you see with? At Sandy-Saulteaux we draw on two rich traditions for understanding Creator and our place in Creation. When we see the world through the strengths of both Indigenous and Western ways of knowing, Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall calls this Etuaptmumk, which means two-eyed seeing.

Two-eyed seeing gives us the unique ability to collaborate with others and to navigate complex challenges. In collaboration with other schools who train ministers for the United Church of Canada, we've embarked on a new project to address some of the challenges facing our church and our world.

With major funding from the Lilly Foundation, we will be working with others to transform how we learn about Creator and Creation across the church. Entitled "Reimagining Theological Education", the project will strengthen our ministry training program so we can share our vision more widely.

Thanks to our elders, Indigenous communities of faith and the support of people like you, Sandy-Saulteaux is at the leading edge of honouring and restoring Indigenous ways of being in a world that often shuts its eyes to Indigenous wisdom. Our two-eyed approach has much to offer in this time, as churches and communities wrestle with what it means to walk a path of reconciliation, take care of each other, and heal relationships between people and the Earth.

As a first step, we are growing our team. Maggie Dieter will move into a new national leadership role, helping build partnerships and support ministry training across Canada. We are also hiring for two positions to better support a wider variety of students at all stages of their learning pathway.

Our growing team will require growing support. Stay tuned for opportunities to be involved with us in this next phase. We continue to need your gifts to be all that we can be!



SSSC is entering an exciting phase of renewal. New funding will bring new staff to our ministry training team this fall. With your help, they will support and expand opportunities like this 2SLGBTQIA+ & Healthy Relationships Learning Circle in June. We look forward to sharing our two-eyed seeing approach more widely!

Congratulations!

In May we celebrated the graduation of Brian George from our Ministry Training and recognized Terence Whiteye and Alma Ransom as Honoured Elders. Brian was ordained at the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering in July.



Your gifts lift up leaders like Brian George, seen here with his wife Cheryl. The sacred fire on Brian's stole reflects his commitment to weaving traditional practices with his Christian faith.



Terence Whiteye (left) with Alma Ransom were honoured at our annual celebration for the ways they live out the seven sacred teachings.



At his ordination, Brian George received the blessing of elders and representatives from Indigenous communities of faith from across Canada, as well as the United Church Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath. Rev. George will continue to serve as a minister in his home community of Neyaashiinigiing.

Photo credit: The United Church of Canada

Join Us in the Learning Circle

Everyone is welcome to learn with our Indigenous ministry students. These Circles are held at our Centre in Beausejour MB, unless otherwise noted. Information is subject to change. Contact us for details and to register.

Pastoral Ethics – October 20-23, 2026

Basic Systematic Theology – October 27-30, 2026

The Work of Paul / Acts of the Apostles – January 19-22, 2027

Stewardship & Church Administration – January to March 2027 (*online*)

Community Development / Social Analysis – April 6-9, 2027

Models of Education – April 13-16, 2027

Creation-Genesis – June 8-11, 2027

Children's Programming – June 15-18, 2027

Finding Peace at Return of the Buffalo Retreats



Return of the Buffalo refers to the work of fostering Indigenous family wellbeing at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. At the first in a series of retreats this year, parents and kids played, rested, held ceremony and created art.

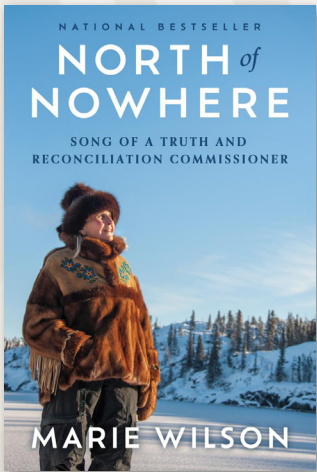
Everyone Welcome at Summer Ceremonies



People gathered for the solstice to hear teachings from our lodge keeper Rob Apetagon and share a sweat lodge and feast. Because of faithful support from relatives like you over the years, our Centre has become a place where people seek out traditional teachings. As our elders teach us, we don't turn anyone away. Thank you to everyone who gives generously so that people can learn sacred teachings together on the land!

Reconciliation Reflections

It's been over 10 years since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) issued its final report and Calls to Action. We invited you to share your experiences of the journey since then. Where have you experienced truth shared and Indigenous wisdom honoured? Here are a couple of excerpts from the responses we received.



Book recommendation: North of Nowhere

Hello from Kay, a retired diaconal minister in Nova Scotia . The journey to [reconciliation] is not easy. However this past year Marie Wilson came to our town Truro on her book tour, North of Nowhere. Hearing about her work on the commission was difficult and necessary. I followed up by reading her book. All should read it.

Getting Over My Fears by Tracey MacDonald

My path as a non-Indigenous person has been twisted, misguided even, lost at times in the forest of knowledge, big feelings and even shame. I was a mature student in university when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada began. Most students in my program were Indigenous. From listening to them, I learned of the frustrations, of the hopes, of the fears, of the weight of the TRC pending report. Flash forward a few years: I read the report and shelved it in my mind. One day I would read more, do more.

Over my career I worked with many Indigenous clients. While I understood at the surface level the impacts of the residential school systems, I did not dig deep. Fear being my number one reason. Where do I belong? What if I can't handle the truth? Where do I start? What if I cross boundaries of appropriateness?!?!?

Slowly, I got over my fears and began my journey. I have taken part in ceremony, done some reading, and now have a long "to-read" list. I have taken part in a Kairos blanket exercise and learned traditional gardening practices. I have supported Indigenous artists and invited Indigenous organizations to events I organize. I have unlearned what my parents taught me. I have challenged ignorant ideas of family and friends and have encouraged them to learn about Canada's dark past. I have taken part in a retreat to make quilts for survivors. This is not meant to be a checklist - just examples of how I am attempting to grow and to learn. At the quilting retreat, a woman shared her story with me. She is a 60's scoop survivor. She relayed in detail

the day they were stolen from their mother's arms. The horror of the new "family". The challenges when they were reunified with family. She spoke of the long-lasting impact and the work she does today to help others heal. This time I did not have a fear of saying the wrong thing. I was not afraid to hear her truth. I listened. We cried together. I carry her story with me and am forever grateful she trusted me.

Each time I am welcomed to experience and learn more about an Indigenous culture, I admire the strength and warmth of the people. When I sit and listen to the drums, the songs, the teachings I am flooded with intense feelings. I think of the harm done, of the children who did not make it home. Feelings of immense sadness. Feelings of respect. Feelings of awe? Feelings that are hard to pinpoint. I have so much admiration for a culture that has been able to keep traditions alive, to maintain the strength to move forward, to welcome all humans into the circle.

I know we as a society have a long way to go on this path to reconciliation. I know we all have a responsibility to do our part in learning, growing and healing. Together.

We Want to Hear From You

Tell us about your journey to reconciliation. What recommendations or encouragements would you like to share?

Living Traditions

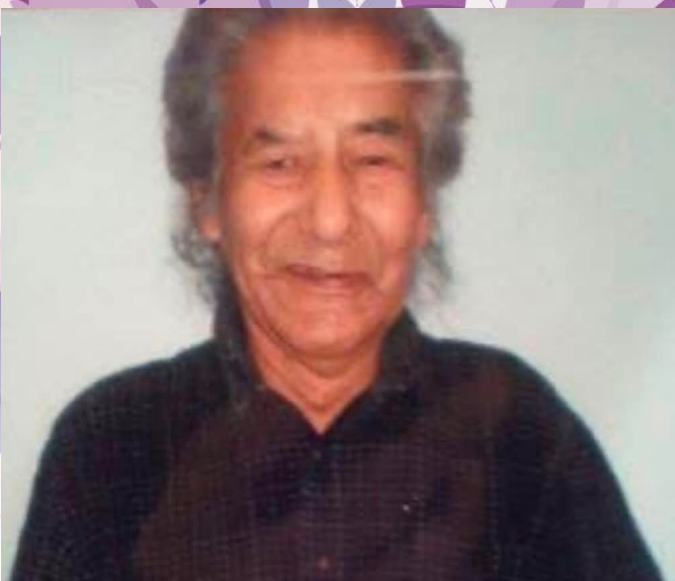


On National Indigenous Peoples Day, Knowledge Keeper Rob Apetagon led us in setting up our tipi for the season. It's a sign when you pull into our driveway that you've arrived in a place that honours Indigenous ways of being. It's a great place to gather in a circle, on the land, in any weather!

Wish List

These are practical items we could put to good use, helping our guests and students get the most out of their time here. If you can donate, please get in touch!

- Men's shorts for sweat lodge ceremonies
- Portable fire pit
- Badminton net & racquets / outdoor games
- Canoe
- New dining room windows



Remembering Jacob Keno

Jacob graduated from the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre in 1996. He served as a minister in South Indian Lake, Oxford House and Winnipeg. In 2020, Jacob was named an Honoured Elder of SSSC. His son Nathaniel nominated him for the kind way he helped a lot of people. Jacob showed Nathaniel and all of his siblings how to be Christian. Jacob passed away in September 2025.

Volunteer with Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

We are seeking volunteers from across Canada to support Indigenous ministry training and land-based education for reconciliation. Current opportunities include:

- Finance Committee – supporting responsible stewardship and long-term sustainability
- Hospitality & Quality Improvement Committee – helping create safe, welcoming, and high-quality experiences for guests
- Personnel Committee – supporting healthy workplace practices and staff well-being

Committees generally meet virtually, 4–6 times per year. Members may participate in small working groups between meetings.

We welcome applications from:

- Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples
- Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community leaders
- Graduates and friends of SSSC
- Youth and emerging leaders interested in learning and contributing
- People with experience in finance, governance, hospitality, human resources, ministry, education, communications, cultural revitalization, and community development.

To express your interest, please contact: Aliesha Desjarlais, Keeper of the Circle at 204-268-3913 or connect@sandysaulteaux.ca.



Want to roll up your sleeves and get more involved? Volunteers help make moments like this recent wellness workshop possible, where youth learned the traditional process of preparing hides.

Donor Connections: Jamie Scott



Rev. Laverne Jacobs (left) regularly reminded Jamie Scott (right) that "it is all about relationship".

I was pleased to honour the memory of Reverend Laverne Jacobs with a donation to the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. During my years as The United Church's General Council Officer for Residential Schools, Laverne was my colleague, confidant, guide and support. His gentle, wise and loving spirit invited me into deep relationship with him, as it did with so many others.

Working within the United and Anglican Churches, Laverne was devoted to supporting Indigenous leadership in congregations and nationally. He believed that authentic ministry required formation in a culturally appropriate context, steeped in Indigenous ways of knowing. He served on the Board of the Francis Sandy Theological Centre and assisted in the creation of the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. His vision and dignified resolve increased Indigenous voice, presence, respect and self-determination across the church.

Laverne was a gift to the church, to his community and to me. I will miss him.

Are You A Member?

Our Annual General Meeting is on September 19 at 10:00 am Central.

If you have donated money to SSSC since July 2024, you are welcome as a member of the corporation and have a vote! Honoured elders and members or representatives of Indigenous communities of faith in the United Church of Canada can be members too.

Register to attend in person or online by emailing connect@sandysaulteaux.ca

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

These recent donors are nurturing Indigenous leadership, supporting traditional ceremonies, and moving us all along a path to reconciliation. We are also supported by The United Church of Canada, through Mission and Service.

Marita Athaide
Baker & Hatherly
Dan & Angelina
Beveridge
Rev. Dr. Teresa
Burnett-Cole
Brenda Brand
Lisa Byer-de Wever
Cabri United Church
Jordan Cantwell
Libby Cassidy
Charleswood United
Church
Janet Clarke
Joyce Clouston
Marilyn & Lewis
Coffman
Adel Compton
Kay Dean DM
Sheila Deforest
Winston Desjarlais
Maggie Dieter
Ted Dodd
Northern Hokkaido
Group
Caryn Douglas &
Peter Kidd

Bill Doyle
Faith UCW
Olive Flett
Falon Fritsch
Jacqueline Garrett
Lilianne Gauthier
David Gilchrist
David Giuliano
Harmony United
Church, Regina SK
Sandra Hayes-Gardiner
Rev. Dr. Kimberly
Heath
B Hui
Amir Hussain
Lori Iverson
Raymond Jones
Cheryl Jourdain
Lorraine Kakegamic
Killarney UCW
Christine Kowalchuk
Will Kunder
John & Heather Lea
Marilyn Legge &
Michael Bourgeois Fund
at The United Church of
Canada Foundation

Sandy MacGean
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Loraine MacKenzie
Shepherd & Nancy
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Shelly & Richard
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Nancy & Robet Mann
Allison Mantrone-
Cardinal
Rev. Jessica McCrae
Dorothy & Stanley
McKay
Ernest Bradshaw &
Melody McKellar
Diane Meredith
Lynette Miller
Richard Miller
Miniota UCW
Minnedosa United
Church
Gordon & Darlene
Molinski
Michelle Montsion
Bev & Cassidy Moore
Nancy Sanders &
Ann Naylor

Neepawa UCW
Josiah Neufeld
Vivian Niedao
K & D Nordal
Trudy Obie
Rene Paupanekis
in memory of
Rev. John Snow
Debbie Pomeransky
Sandy Popham
Ken & Willa Reddig
Leone Rondeau
Sandra Ross
Rev. Marlene
Salmonson
Shawn & Janice
Sanford Beck
Megumi & Allan
Saunders
Pat Seale
Betty-Lou Skogen
Sarah Slywka
Rob & Deb Smith
Vincent Solomon
Susan Sorensen
Rev. Agnes Spence

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St. Williams UCW
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Vic & Danna Wiebe
Matthew Wiebe
Steve Willey
Windsor Park UCW
Don & Wendy Wushke
Erica Young
Anonymous (23)



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Canadian Address to:

Sandy - Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

Box 210
Beausejour, MB
R0E 0C0

Yes, I support the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre!

With a gift of: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other _____

☐ I would like to make my gift monthly! Please contact me to set this up.

My gift is in honour of _____
(we will acknowledge this gift with the honouree or family if you provide contact information.)

This is an unrestricted gift to the Centre or I wish to designate this gift to:

- ☐ Return of the Buffalo - fostering family well being
- ☐ Legacy Fund - an endowment to provide long-term support

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

☐ I enclose a cheque made out to Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre.

I will donate by: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

☐ I have included a gift to Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in my will.

☐ I am considering including Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in my will. Please contact me.

☐ I offer prayers for the ministry.



To donate online visit www.sandysaulteaux.ca/donate

Phone: 204.268.3913

Toll Free: 1-855-674-6171

connect@sandysaulteaux.ca

www.sandysaulteaux.ca

Box 210, Beausejour MB R0E 0C0

Thank you for your generosity