



MARCH 2021

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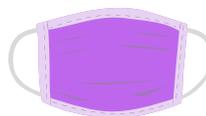
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COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout: Update

As you now know, the COVID-19 vaccine rollout is underway for specific groups in Niagara. For up-to-date information, check out <http://ncnw.net/covid-19-information/>.



Several Indigenous organizations worked together to contact and gather up Indigenous community names and informed consents to have on-hand for Friendship Centres, who had the largest spaces, to engage in the Niagara Urban Indigenous rollout of vaccines. Local Public Health ensured that both Friendship Centres were set up and ready while Friendship Centres and other Indigenous organizations offered up staff to help and get trained for the big days. In all three days approx. 1,600 individuals were vaccinated. For those 55 years and older, Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre took the first day and did an amazing 544! It's so important to protect each other and to continue with this work. Here's an article about that first day (click [here](#)) and also a video on the work of our sister organization in Buffalo, Native American Community Services (click [here](#)). All great work being done! We are grateful for the helpers in our community! Miigwech, Nye weh to all!



Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc.

Spotlight on Justice of the Peace, Norma General-Lickers

Norma General-Lickers was born, raised, and currently lives on Six Nations of the Grand River. Her Mohawk name is Teiotsisasterthe (Bright Star), Kanienkehaka (Mohawk Nation), Anowara wakenitalot:en (Turtle Clan).

As a teenager, she moved to Buffalo, New York, where Norma worked various jobs. She primarily moved there because work was available. Her last job was as a Medical Record Technician at Children's Hospital in Buffalo, New York. While she was still working there, Norma moved to Fort Erie, Ontario and became involved with the Native Centre and NCNW.

Norma became a Justice of the Peace for the province of Ontario in 1989. In 2000, she became a Federal Justice of the Peace for Canada until she retired. She continues to stay active in the local community as an Elder among her other roles.

To learn more about Norma and her experiences, read her full interview here at <http://ncnw.net/spotlight-interview-justice-of-the-peace-norma-general-lickers>



Normal General-Lickers, Justice of the Peace

"Whenever I spoke to an inmate, I'd turn and speak to them. It was always 'Mister.' Everybody I met I treated as an equal no matter who they were. I'd turn in my seat, look at them and talk to them. Whether it was good or bad news, I spoke in a gentle and respectful manner.

I think it would make a difference to these people that someone is treating them as a human being and not just someone who is passing through. The whole idea is to show them respect regardless of why they were presented before the court," Norma says.

COVID-19 Updates

Policies and regulations are continually changing as do the number of COVID cases in each region. For more information and to stay up to date on new developments, visit our website at <http://ncnw.net/covid-19-information/>

Uncovering Current Issues

COLTEN BOUSHIE REPORT HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR MORE RCMP TRAINING, SAY EXPERTS



Debbie Baptiste holds up a photo of her son Colten Boushie as the family speaks in the foyer of the House of Commons in the aftermath of the Gerald Stanley case. - *The Canadian Press*

(MAR. 23) An RCMP watchdog report that concluded police racially discriminated against the bereaved mother of Colten Boushie when its officers notified her of his death underscores the need to address systemic racism in policing, experts say.

Boushie, 22, was shot and killed after he and four others from the Red Pheasant Cree Nation in Saskatchewan drove onto white farmer Gerald Stanley's property near Biggar, Sask., in August 2016.

A jury later acquitted Stanley of second-degree murder. The case sparked concerns about how police handled Boushie's death. The shooting and Stanley's not-guilty verdict also shone a spotlight on racism and racial tensions in Saskatchewan.

The RCMP watchdog group, the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission (CRCC), studied the police investigation and released its report this week.

Click [here](#) to read the full article by Kendall Latimer (via CBC.ca).

FIRST NATIONS THERAPIST REFLECTS ON 20 YEARS HELPING MMIWG FAMILIES

(MAR. 23) Kim McKay-McNabb and others will discuss racism, MMIWG and action plan for change at We Rise conference.



Kim McKay-McNabb counsels family members of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls in Saskatchewan. - *Submitted by Kim McKay-McNabb*

Click [here](#) to read the full article by Amanda Marcotte (via CBC.ca).

OPASKWAYAK CREE NATION STUDENT PLANS VIRTUAL ICE FISHING DERBY

(MAR. 20) Blaze Head wanted to organize an event to get people outdoors and lift spirits.



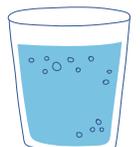
Blaze Head organized a virtual ice fishing derby for families in Opaskwayak Cree Nation. There are prizes for the biggest fish, ugliest fish and best video on how to fillet a fish. - *Steven Feyereisen*

Click [here](#) to read the full article by Lenard Monkman (via CBC.ca).

CANADA SHOULD STRIVE FOR MORE ON WORLD WATER DAY: MARKING FIVE YEARS OF ONGOING FIRST NATIONS WATER CRISIS

(MAR. 22) Where would we be without water to drink, to wash and cook with, and to keep us healthy and alive? Water is essential. But as we mark another World Water Day, many First Nations communities in Canada still don't have access to safe water.

Click [here](#) to read the full article via NationTalk.ca.



MARCH 2021



- **Mar. 1: Zero Discrimination Day**



- **Mar. 8: International Women's Day**

- **Mar. 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

- **Mar. 22: World Water Day**



Stay-at-Home Activities

Try some of these stay-at-home activities via **Supporting, Encouraging & Engaging children in Safe & Active Wellbeing (SEESAW) and Niagara Children's Planning Council (NCPC).**

- **Triple P Parenting:** Click [here](#) to check out the free Positive Parenting on-line magazine, it is full of tips and resources to help families manage during the pandemic.



- **Crayola Canada:** Click [here](#) for colouring pages, craft ideas and so much more. A perfect way to fill some of the stay at home time.



- **7 Simple Springtime Outdoor Activities:** Click [here](#) are simple ways to enjoy the outdoors and celebrate spring:



Maple Syrup Season: One of the best parts of spring is the start of maple syrup season. Although the pandemic has caused changes in visits to a sugar bush, there are still possibilities to explore.

- White Meadows Farms will be offering Sugar Bush Camp Outs that include lunch, there will be a cost for this but their website also has lots of maple syrup information and recipes that you can use at home. Click [here](#) to visit their website
- Richardson's Farm and Market has created a Backyard Syrup Making Kit that is available for purchase. Click [here](#) to get the Kit that offers the supplies needed to tap maple trees and create your own maple syrup, the purchase of a Kit also opens up a series of instructional videos to help.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Facebook at Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc. for updates, announcements and events at [@Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc.](#)



The Youth in Transition program has a new social media account! You can stay up to date on events coming up in our organization and in our community. There will also be weekly journal prompts and self care tips to maintain mental health during these quickly changing times. Follow us at [@yitncnw!](#)

Nature & Garden



MARCH - Sugar Moon (Ziissbaakdoke Giizis)



The third moon of Creation is Sugar Moon. As the maple sap begins to run, we learn of one of the main medicines given to the Anishnabe which balances our blood, and heals us. During this time, we are encouraged to balance our lives as we would our blood sugar levels, by using Divine Law. This moon is also known as the Worm Moon, Goose Moon, Snow Crust Moon, Eagle Moon, and well as many others. - ONWA

MAPLE SAP

Sweetwater (sap) which is used for Spring cleansing is currently running. In honour of this time period, let us learn more about sweetwater and syrup and how it is harvested.



Maple Syrup Harvesting
- GwenTuinman.com

"Sinzibuckwud' is the Algonquin name for maple syrup. The literal translation is "drawn from the wood". Early in the 16th century, the First Nations people shared their maple syrup making process with Europeans. In 1521, Peter Martyr wrote that "Honey is found in the tree, and is gathered amongst the briar and the bramble bushes."

The maple sap ran from the first spring thaw until mid March or April, when the buds were transformed into leaves in. Forty gallons of sap was collected to make one gallon of syrup; that's 640 cups of sap to make 16 cups of syrup.

Click [here](#) to read more about the origin and harvesting of maple syrup ([via GwenTuinman.com](#))

Via The National Centre for Collaboration, Indigenous Education:

- **Ziinibaakwadgummig - The Sugar Bush:** This series of five videos shares how the Anishinaabeg learned about the sap of the maple tree and how to create sweet water, maple syrup.

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Indigenous Talent

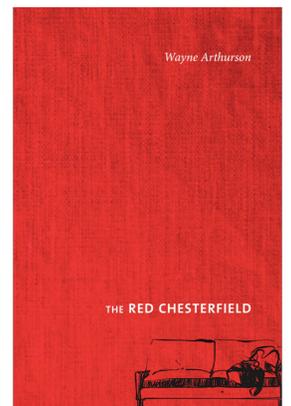
Looking for new books to read, films to watch, or songs to listen to? We've got you! This month's novel is **The Red Chesterfield** by Wayne Arthurson, a writer of Cree and French Canadian descent.

In The Red Chesterfield, a city bylaw officer finds a chesterfield in a ditch, along with a severed foot. The protagonist gets caught up in the investigation — and turns out to be more interested in what happens to the furniture than the origin of the missing body part. The Red Chesterfield subverts the mystery form with a story that has clues that lead nowhere and motivations that are deliberately ambiguous.

The Red Chesterfield is a delightful, unusual novel that upends the tropes and traditions of crime fiction while asking how far one person is willing to go to solve a crime, be it murder or the abandonment of a piece of furniture. (University of Calgary Press) - [CBC.ca](#)



Wayne Arthurson
- [CBC.ca](#)



The Red Chesterfield
- [CBC.ca](#)

Listen to **Snotty Nose**

Rez Kids' album TRAPLINE for some energetic music. Snotty Nose Rez Kids is a Canadian Hip-Hop duo of Haisla (Indigenous) descent from Kitimat, BC, composed of rappers Yung Trybez and Young D. TRAPLINE was named one of the 50 Best Albums of the 2010's, Top 10 Hip Hop Album of the Year, and Top 50 Songs of the 2010's for Boujee Natives by Exclaim! ([via SnottyNoseRezKids.com](#))



Snotty Nose Rez Kids
- [Matt Barnes](#)

What's Next?

Thank you for joining us for our monthly newsletter where we share an inside look on the work we do at the Chapter. As always, your interest and involvement is highly appreciated. To keep supporting us you can make a donation that will help us to continue providing programs and services to our clients in the future. Visit our donation profile at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/niagara-chapter-native-women-inc/> or mail us the tear-away form below.

Do you know someone else who would be interested in the work done by NCNW? Share this newsletter with them or ask them to sign up for our next one at <http://ncnw.net/subscribe-to-our-newsletter/>.

To sign up for a membership, please visit <http://ncnw.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Membership-Form.pdf>.

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Thank you for your generous support!