

May 5 – Update & an Invitation

Congratulations walkers, we made it to Winnipeg! Thirty-eight of us are traveling together now. To get to Winnipeg we traveled from just east of Chapleau Ontario, in Anishnabawaki, the territory of the Cree, and Michif Piyii (Metis), through the territory of the Oceti Sakowin (Sioux). We passed through Treaty 9 area, and entered into Treaty 5 territory in Manitoba. This week we are taking a break from our live interactions, but please see below the personal stories and links to the First Nations Communities near Winnipeg. But for today, please grab a cup of coffee, and let's learn about the Sagkeeng First Nation and Shoal Lake 40. Helmut and Janet Enns have provided this week's learning.

*Respectfully, on behalf of a growing team of organizers,
Wanda*

WALKING THROUGH MANITOBA

Welcome to Manitoba, my home province, where I grew up totally ignorant of the plight of our First Nations hosts. I'd like to invite you to join Janet and myself in learning about just 2 First Nations, Sagkeeng and Shoal Lake 40. Then we'll share one amazing story.

Sagkeeng First Nation is the home of my nephew's partner, Vanessa Fontaine, an amazing (and shy) mother and educator, and the home of her uncle Phil. You likely have heard of him.

Here's a brief introduction to the community, and then a somewhat dated, but always relevant, video of Elder Dave Courchene, Turtle Lodge, Sagkeeng First Nation. Nii Gaani Aki Innini (Leading Earth Man) has travelled internationally, carrying a message of hope and peace. The University of Winnipeg recognized the work of Nii Gaani Aki Innini with an honorary degree, Honorary Doctor of Law, in 2019 for his work.

<http://www.sagkeeng.ca/sagkeeng-history/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnQU3EqXImY>

Shoal Lake 40

While attending University in Winnipeg, I enjoyed clean, safe drinking water. I didn't realize it came at a high price to a first nation on the Manitoba Ontario border. Please follow the links below, to learn of this sad history, and of one small step towards reconciliation that has been taken recently.

<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/crics/projects/shoal-lake-photo-essay%20.html>

<https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/waiting-for-a-century-shoal-lake-40-celebrates-freedom-road/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MuseumofCanadianHumanRightsViolations>

After 20 years, Shoal Lake #40 First Nation is still under a boil water advisory, and using local water for washing and bathing can cause rashes.

Pimachiowin Aki

In the Ojibwe language Anishinaabemowin, Pimachiowin Aki means the Land that Gives Life. Janet would love to share what she has learned about Pimachiowin Aki, the first 'mixed' cultural and natural UNESCO World Heritage site in Canada. The first two YouTube links gives you a short history of Pimachiowin Aki, the third link takes you to the website, the fourth to the UNESCO site, and the last is a beautiful 12-minute meditative journey through this amazing example of reconciliation with all creation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnxxoxO7Et8>

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1415/>

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1415/>

<https://pimaki.ca/the-land-that-gives-life/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FjcxSqFDLI>