

# Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council  
The United Church of Canada



September 29, 2021

*The **Regional Rambler** is our primary resource for sharing information across the Regional Council. To be added to the receiving list, please email Bev Diebert ([bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca)).*

## **1. Living Skies Regional Council News:**

**New opportunities to volunteer with the Regional Council – new** Your Nominations committee is working with a new round of openings on the many groups that do the ministry and mission of the Regional Council. There's a [complete list here](#), along with more info and a PowerPoint slide to use in your community of faith.

**COVID guidelines** The provincial government has re-introduced mandatory indoor masking, effective immediately. For all other safety considerations, communities of faith are responsible for determining the best practices in their context. There are tools including common questions, information about vaccine mandates, and a template for discernment, on the Regional Council [COVID-19 page found here](#). Tricia Gerhard, chair of Living Skies Regional Council Executive, has written a pastoral letter to help put the new measures into context. You can find that [letter here](#). See [last week's Rambler](#) for further interpretation on the new measures.

**New Statutory Holiday: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission call to action number 80, the Government of Canada recently passed legislation making September 30 a federal statutory holiday commemorating the [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#). The new holiday only applies to federally regulated employers. The United Church of Canada and its communities of faith are governed by provincial employment statutes. However, the General and Regional Council offices will be closed on **September 30** this year, while conversations with the National Indigenous Council and the National Indigenous Elders Council determine future practice. *Communities of faith may offer September 30th as a designated paid holiday for their ministry personnel and employees at the discretion of their governing body and the guidance of their regional council.* This day provides an opportunity for Canadians to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools. This may present itself as a day of quiet reflection or participation in a community event.

**All Saints Memorial – updated** It has come to our attention that Living Skies was inadvertently omitted from the list of Regional Councils in the online form. This error has now been corrected. **All Saints Day service remembering those who died of COVID: names needed**, Please assist the national church with this important work. [Please use this link](#) to submit the names of people to be remembered during the service. Names can be submitted up to October 1<sup>st</sup>, (please note that every effort will be made to include names shared past this date).

**Clergy Appreciation Month – new** October is the month when we take a moment to publicly acknowledge the contributions of our ministry personnel. A tribute during worship or a governing body meeting, a token of gratitude, or extra time off might be some ways to show appreciation. The sky is the limit when honouring those who continue to nurture and care for our spiritual selves.

### **Conversion therapy ban petition to the SK government**

Grosvenor Park United Church and Saskatoon Affirming Ministries invite you to circulate this petition in your community of faith and wider community. This is in keeping with the Regional Council's 2020 annual meeting decision to seek a provincial ban on this harmful, transphobic and homophobic practice, which tends to be disproportionately supported by a minority of Christian groups. As Christians, may we speak out against it. Please see full details, including downloads and background, [right here](#). **Deadline: Oct. 15.**

**Season for Creation: homegrown Living Skies resources and event** In 2021, faith communities across Canada are invited to work together for climate justice through the ecumenical initiative, [For the Love of Creation](#). Lots of resources and opportunities [are outlined here](#). We invite you to amplify that work by recognizing Creation Time in worship and congregational life.

This Living Skies document series builds on existing Creation Time resources, and connects them with Creation as experienced in the landscapes and creatures of the Living Skies Region. We invite comments, contributions, and feedback as you work with these resources, and look forward in hope, to see what grows from this small seed. **Here's the Google Drive link:** [Creation Time 2021 in Living Skies Region](#) or [use this link to the Regional Council website](#).

## **2. Wider Church Information:**

**Orange Shirt Day Thursday Sept. 30 - [Orange Shirt Day](#)**/ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (a new federal holiday). Not limited to the children in your life! This day is for everyone. Please consider looking into plans at your local school and within the community; and planning on how your community of faith or ministry can use its resources to hold space for an all-ages focus on truth-telling and learning about residential schools. [Click here for a prayer and resources](#) from Indigenous Ministries and Justice. [Click here for info on a full week of online learning events](#) from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

**CCS Fridays are back! Indigenous Autonomy and Theological Education - Oct 1 @ 12pm - 1pm CDT-new** Join the Centre for Christian Studies for an online discussion of Indigenous testamur and a vision of decolonized theological training for the Indigenous church that honours Indigenous self-determination. Our special guest will be Adrian Jacobs, Keeper of the Circle at the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. *CCS Fridays* are monthly online conversations to help us all to respond faithfully to emerging issues in local contexts. These workshops are open to anyone who might be interested. Each session will be on a Friday from 12:00 to 1:00 CT and in the form of a Zoom workshop. There will be a presentation that will be recorded for future viewing, plus opportunities to engage with the ideas in small groups. Sessions are free but you must [register](#). (Click [HERE](#))

## **3. Upcoming Learning Opportunities**

**Indigenous Children Then, Now, and Tomorrow: Online Panel, 29 September:** Indigenous Ministries and Justice is hosting an Orange Shirt Day panel on September 29, 2021 at 3:30 – 5:00p.m SK time. Panelists Allison Forsberg, Jocelyn Formsmma, Leeann Shimoda, and the Rev. Murray Pruden will explore how Indigenous children and families were and continue to be impacted by colonialism. They will touch on a range of topics including Indigenous Children in Residential Schools, Sixties Scoop, Millennial Scoop, and bringing our children home. For more information or to sign up please [visit the United in Learning website](#).

**Orange Shirt Day vigil, September 30, 5:00PM in SK (time corrected):** Executive Minister Murray Pruden will be hosting a candle light vigil to honour the children who never made it home from Residential Schools and survivors. Please join us for an evening of remembering and please bring a candle or a light. This gathering will be live broadcast on the Indigenous Ministries and Justice Facebook page, which is accessible to all: <https://www.facebook.com/IndigenousMinistries/events>

### **Whose Land? Whose Promise? Palestine, Justice and the Bible, October 2, 10:00AM in SK**

This two-part webinar (90 minutes each), hosted by Canadian Friends of Sabeel (CFOS), is being presented by a team from the United, Presbyterian, Mennonite, and Christian Reformed churches. For registration and more details, please click [here](#). (*Sabeel is an ecumenical grass-roots liberation theology movement among Palestinian Christians, and a long-time United Church partners based in Jerusalem.*)

### **Taste of Palestine live cooking webinar part 1, Tuesday October 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM**

Enjoy learning (virtual) hands on about Palestinian traditional food, and the realities of living and eating under military occupation or blockade. Haneen AbdAlnabi will be our first host on October 12 at 10:30AM. She is a teacher and translator living under blockade in Gaza, and, we hope, will come to us live from Gaza. [Please register here to get the Zoom link](#), which will be sent automatically.

A second Taste of Palestine will take place November 2 live from the West Bank: [click here for details](#).