

## **RIGHT RELATIONS RESOURCE TEAM**

The Canadian Shield Regional Council's Right Relation Resource Team (RRRT) was created following the 2018 General Meeting. The RRRT carries on the work initiated by the Living into Right Relations Home Group and other reconciliation efforts initiated by groups from across our region. The purpose of the Right Relations Resource team is to develop, support and nurture just and respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. To achieve this, we endeavour to do the following:

- Actively seek out ways to advocate and support the work of reconciliation throughout our region.
- Educate re: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission "Calls to Action" and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and suggest ways to respond concretely.
- Share truth and endeavour to increase cultural competency about things such as: Canada's and the Church's role in the colonization of Indigenous Peoples; generational impacts of residential schools; systemic racism; restoration of language, culture, spirituality and treaties.
- Encourage the church's presence where and when Indigenous Peoples are seeking justice, celebrating, remembering, mourning, learning, protesting, rallying, praying...and show up!
- Research and share appropriate resources to build capacity, encourage local leadership development, and empower and equip the church to do this work

### **Key projects that support this work since 2023 include:**

- Assisting Communities of Faith in obtaining resources to prepare for voting on the Remit to remove structural barriers to develop and sustain an autonomous indigenous church within the United Church of Canada.
- Maintaining and sharing content on the Right Relations Facebook page, website and email group on the reconciliation efforts locally and in our wider region
- Preparing content (including videos and resource packages) on a variety of topics such as the Manitou Art Collection, Residential Schools, and more for the CSRC website
- Creating and distributing digital and print Minute for Right Relations, Summer Reading Lists, A podcast series on the United Church's role in Residential Schools, an Indigenous Music Playlist, and more
- Preparing and leading a presentation on Land Acknowledgement at the Festival of Faith in June 2023
- Providing oversight for the Manitou Art Collection paintings in the care of communities of faith in our region – In September 2022, the Right Relations Resource Team arranged to re-home an Untitled painting by Leland Bell to Emmanuel United Church, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

### **Right Relations Resource Team Membership Changes**

Carol Germa has been a long time member of the Right Relations Team. Carol was part of the gathering: Living into Right Relations groups covenant at Pinawa, Manitoba in May, 2008 which led to the formation of the Manitou Conference's Living into Right Relations Group, the predecessor of the CSRC's Right Relations Resource Team.

This past year Carol retired from our team. Carol brought wisdom and knowledge to our work. She was generous with her time and talents and often it was easier to "ask Carol" than figure it out for ourselves. Thank you so much Carol for your time and dedication. You shared some of your own journey and helped us realize that we are all learning and growing in our awareness. Your work for Right Relations is most appreciated. We offer our deep gratitude, our love and our heartfelt

blessings to Carol!

Linda Ambrose joined our team in 2021. She has been a tremendous asset to our team bringing a willingness to speak boldly with a compassionate heart and with much wisdom. Linda is stepping out of her role as a team member. We offer our gratitude and wish her many blessings.

### **Memorial Bench**

In January, 2022, Maxine McVey, a valued and much loved member of the Canadian Shield Right Relations Resource Team, passed into Spirit. The CSRC Right Relations team would like to honour that legacy by installing a memorial bench at the site of the Apology Cairn, a sacred space that was so important to Maxine. We are in the process of arranging for the construction and installation of the bench at the site of the Apology Cairn. Look for more information later this spring.

### **The members of the team are:**

Lisa Blais (Team Lead), Whitney Bruno, Sylvia Carscadden, Janie Clayton, Lionel Ketola, Susan Lindquist, Brian Mundell, Melody Duncanson-Hales (Staff Resource)