UNSETTLING OURSELVES: SETTLER ENGAGEMENT WITH TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

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Unsettling Ourselves: Settler Engagement with Truth and Reconciliation

5 mins	Introductions and Purpose
15 mins	Fundamental Beliefs
10 mins	For Settlers who say that they support decolonization … but wish it weren't so hard.
5 mins	Considerations for Social Work

"Settler" refers to those of us who are not indigenous to this land - to those of us who can trace our ancestries back to people who came from other places and 'settled' on the land we call Canada.

As Settlers, we hold some fundamental beliefs which are foundational to our work toward Truth and Reconciliation:

Settlersinfo.org is not working – these links are active:

www.truepartnership.org/settlers-info-project-donations/

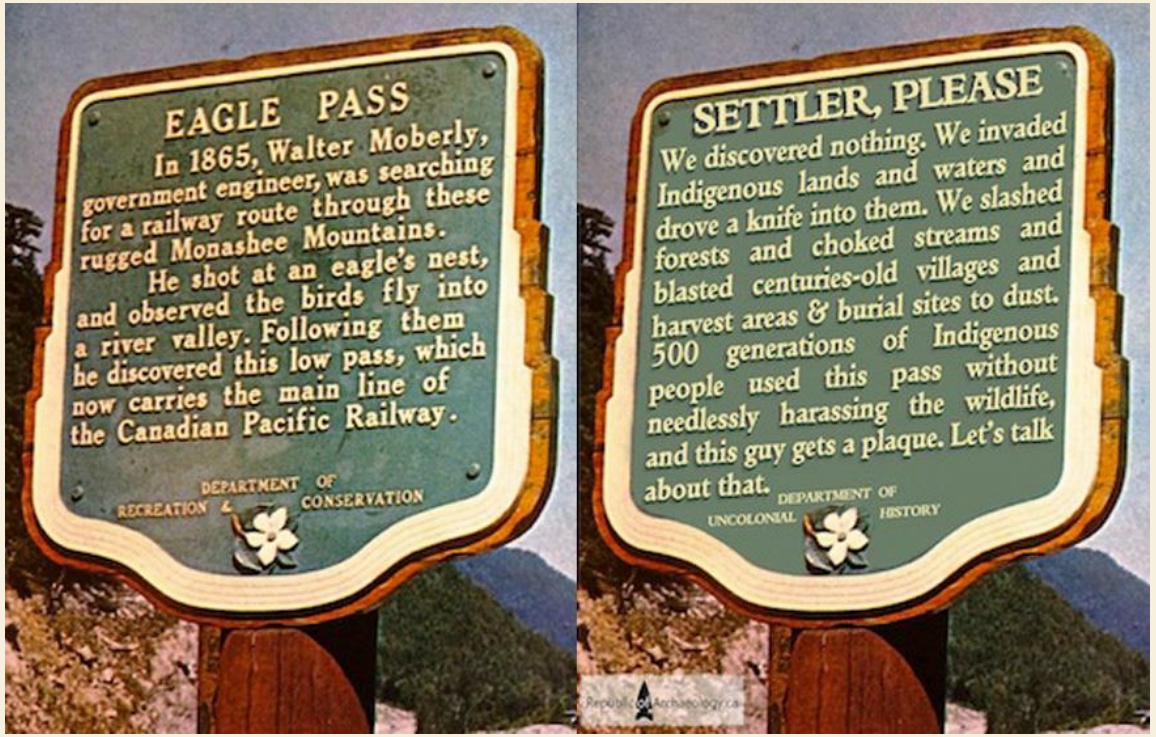
www.facebook.com/groups/Settlersinfo/

We assert that relationships among Indigenous and Settler peoples, communities, organizations, governments, and nations frequently have been, and continue to be, fractured and full of miss-understanding, suspicion, distrust, and oppression.

We believe that Settler peoples have not adequately recognized and accepted our role in creating these fractured relationships. Furthermore, we have not carried our share of responsibility for learning about or mending them, or creating new relationships.

We are encouraged by the current indications that Settler people may be willing to "Step Up" to the challenge of creating new relationships. The fact that you have signed up for this webinar is one such indication.

We appreciate that the creation of new relationships is difficult, especially given the above context. As Settler peoples, we must cultivate humility and enter into any new relationships with awareness and intention.



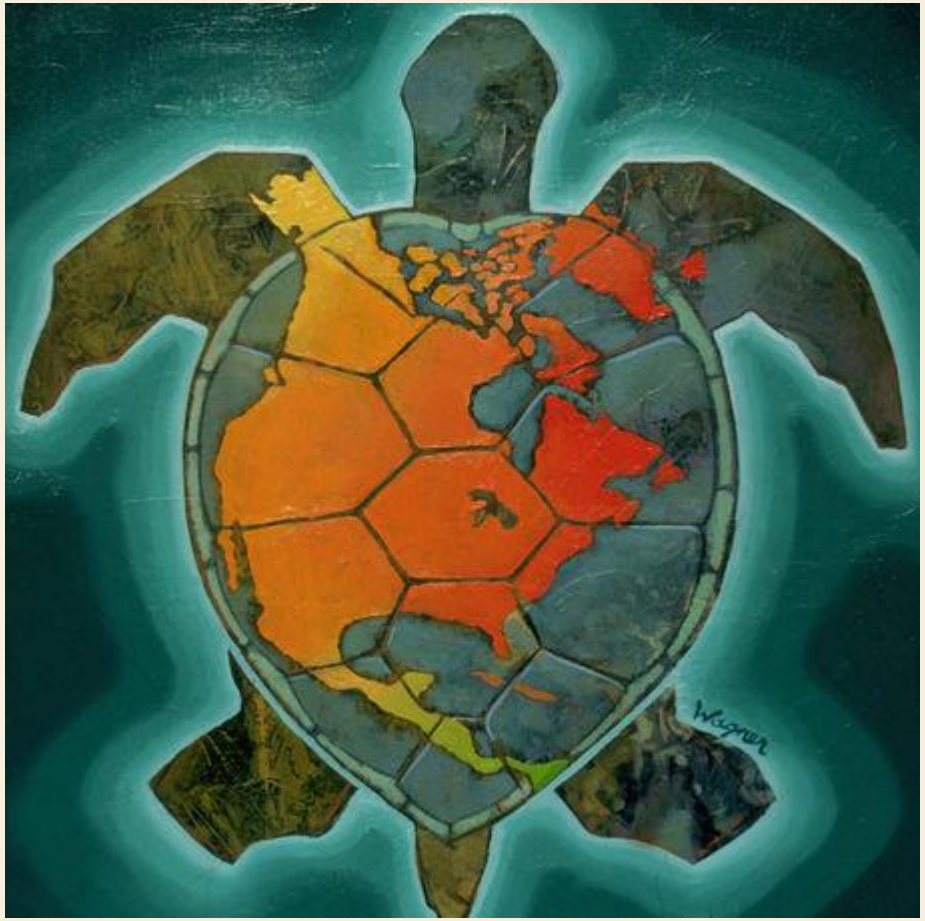
An essential aspect of developing awareness and attention is turning our gaze inward – including seriously considering the aspects of our own world view, culture, and practices that have contributed to the current state of the relationship between Settler and Indigenous peoples.

While anyone is welcome to be part of this webinar, our focus is on the growth of Settlers who wish to participate in decolonization and reconciliation efforts.

We acknowledge and respect that we cannot speak for Indigenous peoples. We are committed to ongoing reflection and analysis to ensure that we are 'doing **our own** work'.

We understand reconciliation to be grounded in relationship - relationship at multiple and intersecting levels (personal, community, organizational, governmental, national). Our relationship to and with The Land is fundamental to reconciliation.

On, To, or With The Land?



Indigenous thought understands The Land as the sustainer of life, as central to identity, as a pharmacy, as sacred, and as home.
An Indigenous world view engages "land not as a machine, but as a community of respected non-human persons to whom humans have a responsibility. .. Restoring land without restoring relationship is an empty exercise" (Kimmer, 2013, p.338).

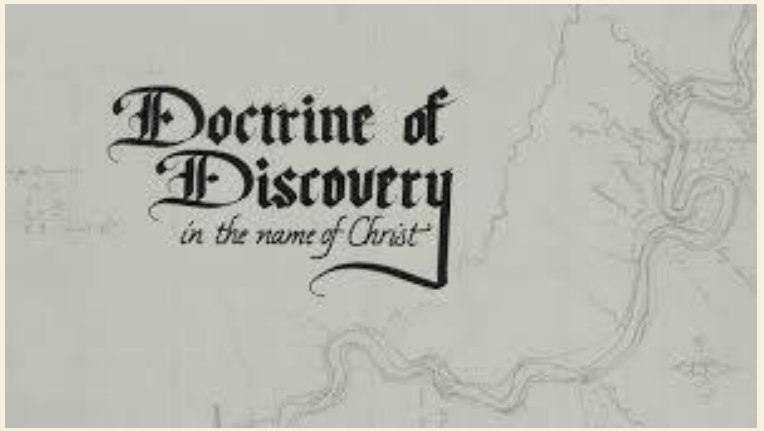
Settler thought understands land as capital, as property, as a commodity, as a natural resource to be exploited.

"…it is long established law that if one lives openly on unoccupied land without confrontation for a minimum of 20 years that land belongs to the claimant" (Reid, 2018).

The Doctrine of Discovery

This *Papal Bull* stated that any land not inhabited by Christians was available to be "discovered", claimed, and exploited by Christian rulers. It declared that "the Catholic faith and the Christian religion be exalted and be everywhere increased and spread, that the health of souls be cared for, and that barbarous nations be overthrown and brought to the faith itself."

This *Doctrine of Discovery* became the basis of all European claims in the Americas…



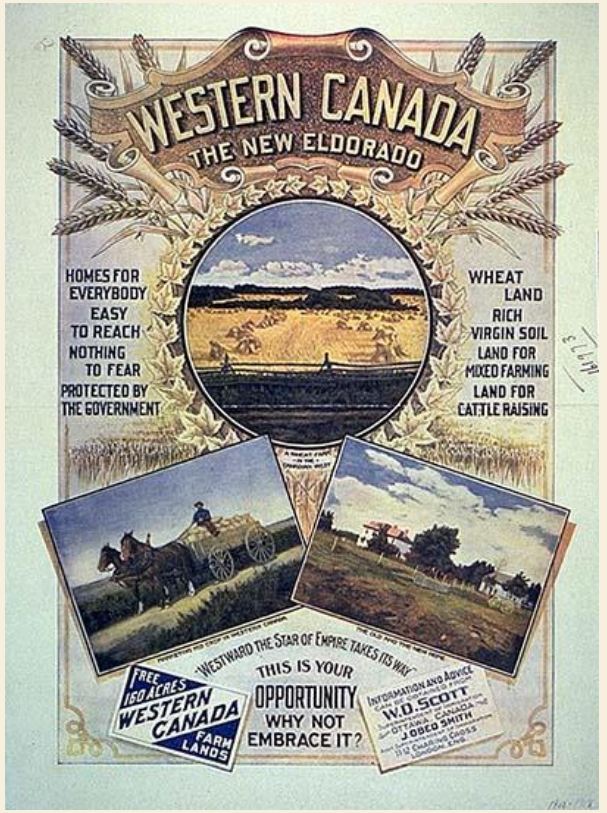
For Settlers Who Say That They Support Decolonization ... But Wish It Weren't So Hard.

by Sheri M McConnell

Modelled after Pat Parker's 1970s poem, *For The Straight Folks Who Don't Mind Gays, But Wish They Weren't So Blatant.*

This piece is intended to challenge Settler peoples' beliefs, attitudes, behaviours, and, most importantly, privilege. It was written for Settler peoples by a Settler - because we, as Settler peoples, need to take responsibility for cleaning up our messes and doing things differently.

CANADA
IS YOUR LAND
FOR THE ASKING
HEALTH
WEALTH
ENQUIRE
AT ANY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCY
OR ANY LICENSED BOOKING AGENT.


WESTERN CANADA
THE NEW ELDORADO
HOMES FOR EVERYBODY
EASY TO REACH
NOTHING TO FEAR
PROTECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT
WHEAT LAND
RICH VIRGIN SOIL
LAND FOR MIXED FARMING
LAND FOR CATTLE RAISING
"WESTWARD THE STAR OF EMPIRE TAKES ITS WAY"
THIS IS YOUR
OPPORTUNITY
WHY NOT EMBRACE IT?
FREE 160 ACRES
WESTERN CANADA
FARM LANDS
INFORMATION AND ADVICE
W.D. SCOTT
J OBED SMITH

WHITE STAR
LINE
CANADA'S
CALL
To WOMEN.

160 ACRES
FRITT LAND
200 MILLIONER ACRES
i VESTRA
CANADA
TILL
HVARJE
LANDTBRUKARE

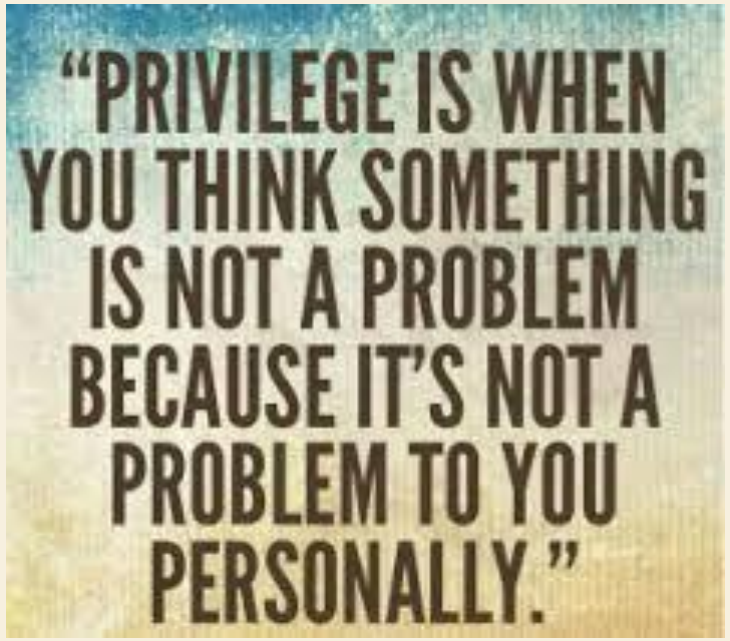
Future
Past

Responsibility

* Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Claims Settlement Act
* James Bay & Northern Quebec Agreement
* Northeastern Quebec Agreement
WA (I)CSA 1984
Treaty 11: 1921
Treaty 8: 1899
10: 1906
5: 1876
& 1908
6: 1876
7: 1877
4: 1874
1871
2: & 1871
3: 1873
9: 1929
1905
JBNQA 1975 and NEQA 1978
Pre-Confederation Treaty
Pre-Confederation Vancouver Is. Treaties 14 1850-54
Pre-Confederation Maritime Peace & Friendship
Pre-Confederation Peace & Alliance
Robinson-Huron 1850
Williams 1923
Pre-Confederation Treaties

Don't cry, decolonize!

I STILL BENEFIT!
FROM INSTITUTIONALIZED RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION!


"PRIVILEGE IS WHEN YOU THINK SOMETHING IS NOT A PROBLEM BECAUSE IT'S NOT A PROBLEM TO YOU PERSONALLY."

Family Tree

IMMIGRATION
Illegal aliens have always been a problem in the United States.
Ask any Native American.
VERY DEMOTIVATIONAL .com

"Sorry" means you DON'T Do IT AGAIN

I can't
do it

Action
Changes
Things

NEVER
STOP
LEARNING

Be the change you wish
to see in the world.
- Mahatma Gandhi

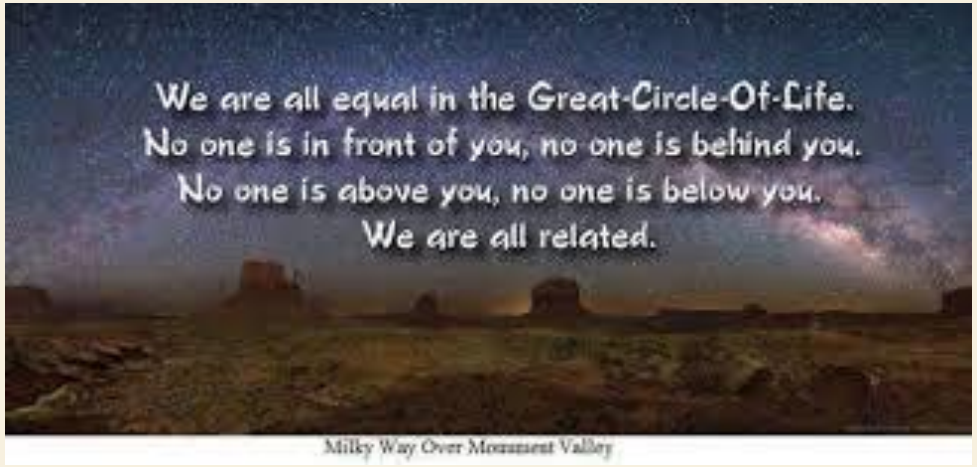
IF YOU ARE
NEUTRAL
IN SITUATIONS
OF INJUSTICE,
YOU HAVE CHOSEN
THE SIDE
OF THE OPPRESSOR

-DESMOND TUTU

true humility is
staying teachable,
regardless of how
much you
already know
cg

HUMBLE.
Self-aware and respectful.

be humble,
be teachable
and always
keep learning



Milky Way Over Monument Valley

Decolonize

Reconciliation

One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say.
– BRYANT MCGILL
simplereminders.com
Simple Reminders
SIMPLEREMINDERS.COM

Change is a process, not an event.

Social Work "has originated out of and been heavily influenced by white colonial settler ways of doing, being, knowing, and relating" (Carlson, 2016, p.169).

"Social work and social workers have played (and continue to play) key roles in the colonization process in Canada" (Carlson, 2016, p.174).

SOCIAL WORKERS
leaders. advocates. champions.

Social Justice
Social Change
Social Work

Social work "has not been critically reflective of its Euro-Western assumptions, beliefs, and values, and has therefore failed to deconstruct and decolonize its own modernist professional culture" (Baikie, 2009, p.44).

Social work values, ethics, regulations, and professionalization are connected to colonizing practices in that the "universally applied code of ethics and standards of practice do not account for the contextual, cultural, and political realities for Indigenous social workers" (Baikie, 2009, p.44).

Comments
Questions
Thoughts

"THE JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES
BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP."
- LAO TZU

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Reid, R. (2018, February 23). Be careful what you're acknowledging, St. John's. *The Telegram*.