

# INDIGENOUS - ITALIAN CANADIAN CONNECTIONS



matthias  
nunno

"Learned to walk  
in a good way"

Family + Faith  
held in high regard  
amongst both communities

- Acknowledge and uphold Indigenous Peoples as original caretakers of this land
- respect treaty rights
- learn true history of land you live on
- refer to Indigenous Nations by name
- lead to equality/shift societal perspectives
- build economic partnerships
- exchange of knowledge
- CELEBRATION of these STORIES/SHARED HISTORIES



enza  
buffa

Generational  
Storytelling  
builds CONNECTIONS  
...as people with  
MIXED HERITAGE...  
this is a conversation  
we've been WAITING  
FOR!

A STRONG DESIRE  
to be CONNECTED +  
address what was lost

INTERNAL  
TRANSFORMATION  
ourselves Families

"IN ORDER TO LOOK  
FORWARD WE  
HAVE TO LOOK  
BACK and  
THEN HOLD  
THIS SPACE  
TOGETHER"



agnese  
escalona

Beginning stages of  
understanding my  
Indigenous history/culture

...being white passing LIMITS  
my experience of RACISM  
+ I experience PRIVILEGE  
but it deprived me of my  
INDIGENOUS CULTURE!

START  
CONVERSATIONS

★ Address ignorance  
+ STEREOTYPES  
★ ACKNOWLEDGE  
RACISM:  
put a STOP to  
hurtful, untrue,  
ignorant comments  
★ SUBCONSCIOUS  
RACISM:  
"educate ourselves... it  
will continue to happen +  
we will continue to contribute  
to it"



dr. alexandra  
giancarlo

Personal Journey:  
understand the  
dynamics between my  
SETTLER ancestors  
+ INDIGENOUS  
Peoples they encountered  
my IDENTITY  
is complicated by this  
family history

"I have a DESIRE  
to move forward from  
this past... to a future  
w/respectful/reciprocal  
relationships w/  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES"

- 1 Everybody has a GIFT! elder/knowledge holder teachings
- 2 LEAD with EMPATHY
- 3 INTERNAL WORK
- 4 one-on-one CONVERSATIONS
- 5 Marie Baptiste Decolonial Model: HEAD/HEART/HAND

STARTING  
A  
CONVERSATION

Q#1  
What is  
your story  
in relation  
to Indigenous-  
Italian-  
Canadian  
Connections?

Q#2  
What is the  
work/the  
steps that the  
Italian/  
Canadian  
Community  
should undertake  
to move forward  
+ build better  
relationships  
w/ Indigenous  
Canadians?



julia  
giraudi

"My father  
was able to  
own his own  
story... I want  
to be able to  
LEAVE something behind"

"Our ANCESTORS live in  
every cell of our bodies  
...even if we think  
we don't have that  
Knowledge, we do"

What can we learn from mountains  
WE DON'T NEED TO  
KNOW OUR ENTIRE  
HISTORY TO KNOW  
OURSELVES

- Ideas of NATIONHOOD
- Settlers are GUESTS
- Be an ACCOMPLICE of the DECOLONIAL MOVEMENT
- Allyship must be ACTIVE - based in respect



dr. anna  
mongi bello

JUNE 2010 LIFE  
CORNERSTONE  
Interview with  
Lee Maracle

"personally, I didn't  
know how to  
listen to/read  
Indigenous women's  
voices until..."

It became a KEY  
TEACHING that it  
is a matter of  
DIALOGUING  
and the importance of  
Learning by LISTENING

ACKNOWLEDGE:  
BIAS in  
Mainstream  
Media  
ACKNOWLEDGE:  
Violent systems  
of representation  
of Indigenous  
Peoples are  
still in place



dr. angela  
nardozi

Entry point  
in discussion  
came when  
I worked at  
a college in  
N. Ontario

"This community  
held a mirror up  
to me and showed  
me who I was"

THE LAST DECADE:  
"My work now is to  
educate my own  
community"

"After doing enough  
of our own work... my  
HOPE to have  
better RELATIONSHIPS  
based on the  
TEACHINGS OF  
the WAMPUM  
BELT"



dr. robert  
phillips

LIFE LESSON:  
"I am not better or  
worse than anyone else"  
= I am an EQUAL

I HOPE  
for the day when  
Indigenous Canadians  
are respected and  
upheld in Canada

★ Addressing  
NEGATIVE LANGUAGE  
★ The Way Forward:  
See each other as  
equal + Contemporary  
★ Teach/show our  
Children that  
we are ALL  
EQUAL!

By: Nigitt'stil Norbert 2021