



We Light This Candle

We light this candle to celebrate diversity and the infinite variety of language, race, religion, and gender present in our community.

We light this candle for lives lost, for laughter cut short, voices that will never again be heard, for hugs unraveled by death.

We light this candle to move us closer to the world we long for: free of oppression, poverty, and injustice.

We light this candle to prod at privilege, speak hard truths, and rekindle our commitment to eradicating poverty and eliminating racial discrimination.

We light this candle for our city. Racism has grit here. Poverty has grit here. Both have claimed lives here. Both have claimed dignity here. The swollen flow of poverty and racism through this city threatens to flood the banks of our well-divided neighbourhoods.

We light this candle for solidarity. We do not stand alone. We share the same light with millions who came before and many millions who will walk after us on the march to a promised land yet unseen, long discussed but that already extends long arms of life and hope into our present reality.

We light this candle for hope—as a sign of rebellion against the darkness that threatens to consume us. For the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not, will not, cannot overcome it.



**Join us for
A Multi-Faith Gathering to Mark the International Day for the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

**Monday, March 21st @ 2 pm
West Broadway Community Ministry - 222 Furby St.**

A publication of West Broadway Community Ministry at Crossways in Common

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A New Conversation



“God forgive me for being Aboriginal,” she whispered after she shared her story of horrific abuse and neglect. Her story was one of feeling unloved, worthless and devalued by society. We were part of a Circle with people from many different backgrounds. Her words sank deep inside me, and resonated with stories I had heard from other women who had been abused. But her story differed significantly from the others. She asked for forgiveness for being who she was. What does that mean?

I can understand asking for forgiveness for something that you DO but not for who you ARE. You can change what you DO but you can't change who you ARE. You can't change your race. It is tragic for a human being to see herself not as a being created in God's image but as a mistake for which she must ask forgiveness.

Systemic racism is more than prejudice. Systemic racism is personal and societal and global. It affects all of us. We all learn it as we grow up. We breathe it and it begins to feel normal. In Winnipeg, those most impacted by racism are First Nations peoples. Systemic racism means that indigenous people are more likely to be ignored by teachers, followed by security guards, or stopped by police. It means limited visibility in media, in public forums or in big board rooms. Racism means that a greater percentage of indigenous peoples are unemployed, living in poverty or in jail. Racism gets internalized and people feel unworthy in their own skin.

Last month I heard another indigenous woman speak. Her life experience was similar to the woman who shared in the Circle. Horrible, tragic, unthinkable. Until one day in her late teens she was told, **“You come from a long line of gifted and strong women. Your ancestors were a proud people.”** She was introduced to some of the traditional teachings of her people and her life turned around.

That woman was Nahanni Fontaine. She spoke to a room of 150 faith leaders and she spoke powerfully on behalf of missing and murdered indigenous women. No apologies for being who she was or what had happened to her. Instead she demanded justice. She was strong spirit, pure conviction.

From a very difficult start in life, Nahanni Fontaine became the Manitoba government's special advisor on Aboriginal women's issues. She continues to lobby for the rights of indigenous girls and women who have been targets of violence. She is on the Winnipeg Police Advisory Board, the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and the UN working group on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Nahanni Fontaine is a voice of hope. She is one of many. Since Maclean's Magazine named Winnipeg the most racist city in Canada, things have changed. **A conversation has begun.** A difficult conversation to be sure but so necessary. Indigenous peoples are naming their experience and there is a new attentiveness. Mayor Brian Bowman declared 2016 “Year of Reconciliation” and has outlined a number of actions that the city will take to move the conversation to action. See <https://www.mayorbowman.ca/media/read,378/82/mayor-bowman-declares-2016-as-the-year-of-reconciliation>. The conversation is ongoing and we are all invited to it.

As you read this, remember that you are a gift to this world. You are worthy. You are sacred. Your being makes a difference. Let your voice be part of the conversation.

Yours truly,
Lynda Trono
Community Minister



How Can You Help WBCM?

Emergency Food Cupboard Needs

- Canned tuna or salmon (in water)
- Canned chicken or turkey
- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Canned stew, chili, brown beans
- Peanut Butter
- Jam
- Pasta (family and individual sizes)
- Rice (brown, converted, or parboiled)
- Canned spaghetti sauce or tomatoes
- Canned soup (lentil, pea, vegetable)
- Kraft Dinner
- Baby food (jars of chicken, beef, fruit, and vegetables)
- Infant cereal (oatmeal, barley, or rice)
- Baby formula with added iron

West Broadway Community Ministry is now on PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) through the United Church of Canada. You can help us by registering with PAR to donate a given amount each month from your bank account. This can help us to secure our future and plan ahead with more assurance. For a PAR form, please email us at wbcmoffice@gmail.com or call 204-774-2773. Your generosity is much appreciated. (Anything helps!)

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 21

- **Multi-Faith Gathering
2:00 at Crossways in Common
to mark the International Day for the
Elimination of Racism**

Friday, April 25

- **CLOSED**

Monday, April 28

- **CLOSED**

Thursday, April 14

- **Windsor Park UC serving lunch**

Monday April 18

- **BBQ lunch with students from
Miles Macdonell Collegiate**

Wednesday, April 20

- **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
5:30—8 pm**

Thursday, April 21

- **Westworth UC serving lunch**

Saturday, April 23

- **High Tea
2 pm—4pm at Crossways in Common**

Thursday, May 12

- **Windsor Park UC serving lunch**

Thursday, May 19

- **Westworth Park UC serving lunch**

Thursday, June 9

- **Windsor Park UC serving lunch**

Thursday, June 16

- **Westworth UC serving lunch**



Love Makes a Family



- Ginny Eckert

Our family consists of 2 parents and 3 children. We take our kids to their sports event and cheer them on. We go to school events, plays, teacher/parent meetings. We go to the movies together, shopping, on vacation. The kids grandparents come to visit, aunts and uncles too. We celebrate Christmas, Easter, Halloween, birthdays, and each others achievements.

Our family is not perfect, but there is love. We fight, get mad at each other, are disappointed, but we forgive too. We work hard, study hard, and there is love. Our family sounds like a lot of other families, and so it should. When you see our family out and about, remember until you saw us, we sounded just like you. Because we are.

Love makes a family.



High Tea

in support of
West Broadway
Community Ministry

Saturday, April 23
2:00- 4:00 pm



- Free will offering at the door
- Hat contest
Wear your best or most outrageous hat!
- Tea and cakes
- Silent auction
- Honouring long term volunteers

At West Broadway Community Ministry, 222 Furby St.

For more information,
contact
Terry Reilly,
Anglican
Diocesan
Representative at
reilly@ucalgary.ca
or 204-261-8516



Journey of Healing

Kathy Copenace was just five years old when she was forced to go to residential school. Raised to forget her past, Kathy has found a healing effect in telling her story to anyone who will truly listen. While painful, she believes it's important for everyone to hear and understand her story and others like it in order to inspire change. It's by sharing these truths that we can all continue to work toward understanding and healing.

She recalls two cops, two nuns and a priest coming to her campsite. Her parents were rice picking and she would often travel from bay to bay with her parents. Her dad began to argue with these people. Kathy's first language is Ojibway and she didn't understand English. Her dad and mom knew some English. "The reason they knew was because they were in residential schools."

"Growing up, I had no affection from my parents. It was just day to day living. If we did anything wrong, we were hit. From there, it affected how I was a parent. I loved my kids, but I was very strict and I had a hard time showing affection to my kids. I just did what my parents had done. I didn't hug my kids or ever tell them I loved them. I hit them like my parents did. I showed my love by buying them sweet stuff."

Kathy vividly recalls the night she was taken, "It was like kidnapping us." It was evening and just after dark when she was taken away from the campsite. "I remember my mom grabbing us, trying to make us stay. My parents were threatened with jail time." Kathy's one sibling and other children from the campsite were taken away. When they got there, they slept on the floor in one big room. Kathy remembers that children were crying. They didn't understand what was going on. Kathy notes, "I was traumatized. There was a lot of fear." Their first meal consisted of runny oatmeal and half a piece of bread. Kathy says, "They showed us where to sit. There were numbers on the tables. Even our clothes had numbers written on them. We were known by numbers."

The residential school system filled Kathy with resentment. She missed out on typical childhood experiences and she spent much of her time, as she remembers it, "behind brick walls". A lot of kids got hit." She points to her ear, "See my ear? My right one is kind of bigger. It's from my ear being pulled when I was there."

Kathy finds hope with her grandkids. "When my kids had children, I told them not to make the same mistakes as I did. I told them to praise their children, love them unconditionally, hug them and show them affection, to eat meals together, to spend time together." Kathy is a role model to her grandkids and a mentor to other people.

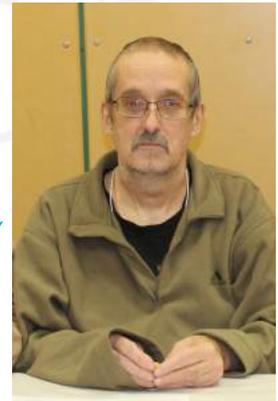
Kathy's story is just one of the many heart-wrenching stories of residential school survivors. It has been estimated that 150,000 students suffered abuse, cultural loss and even death at residential schools, which operated from the 1870s through the 1970s.





"I love volunteering here. Coming here gives me a sense of belonging." - Leanne

"I understand that it's not easy living on assistance and volunteering, I get the satisfaction of knowing I get to help somebody else out because I've been in the same boat." - Ron



"I'm homeless and out on the cold streets at night. I have nowhere to sleep. I sleep in bus shelters. I come here during the day." - Mark



"I volunteer here because I lived on the street for a long time and I want to help broken people when they come in here." - Robert



"It's not about what I get out of it, it's about others. Volunteering is about giving back to the community." - Tammy



You can make a difference by donating to West Broadway Community Ministry.

Donation amount: \$20 \$50 \$100 Other: _____

Cheque (payable to West Broadway Community Ministry)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Email: _____

Please mail this form to West Broadway Community Ministry 102-222 Furby St. Winnipeg, MB R3C 2A7

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.

