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“Reconciliation is getting to know one another”, Mary Simon, Governor General: National Post, July 26, 2021

June 2023 News from your Ministry Manager Note: *the Urban is closed for holidays for the month of July*

On March 25, 2019, I attended a presentation by Murray Sinclair at the U. of W. called *Lighting the Path Forward – Calls to Action in Action*. His words continue to be timely and increasingly important. **These notes below, that I wrote down while listening to Murray Sinclair, the former senator and chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), formed great discussions a few weeks ago in our men’s, women’s and co-ed sharing circles. These are my notes of his words from that event:**

“Essential questions we all ask ourselves in life: Who am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going? and, How am I going to get there?”

Essential dialogue for reconciliation:

- I want to be your friend.
- I want you to be my friend.

I want you to treat me like you would treat a true friend, talk to me and about me like you would talk to a friend in a true and respectful way. Reach out and help me as I would help you. Think of me when I need help as I will help you when you need help.

The reasons for the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action are not for Indigenous people to change. It is for the perpetrators to change.

The past 150 years have been similar to a domestic abuse situation:

- Boundaries are ignored.
- Rights were taken away (example the right to protest, the right to vote, etc.)

Like an abuser not physically abusing but giving the message “it’s all your fault”, you’re inadequate, you’re lucky I married you”, “where would you be without me”. It’s called gaslighting:

Gaslighting is a form of persistent manipulation and brainwashing that causes the victim to doubt her or himself, and ultimately lose her or his own sense of perception, identity, and self-worth. The term is derived from the 1944 film *Gaslight*, in which a husband tries to convince his wife that she’s insane by causing her to question herself and her reality.

We have to address this long history and the high degree of mistrust on both sides:

Indigenous people are not trusted to handle their own affairs, and Indigenous people don’t trust the government to do the right thing. **This affects all of us because we need to learn to talk to each other.** If we wait for the government to do the right thing we will wait a long time because they are subject to the dominance of interest groups – **but we can all do it.”**

*As Murray Sinclair said “it’s everyday people gathering like this one who will form the path to reconciliation”. He stated that “reconciliation is one person at a time”. **This is also so true of our sharing circles.***

Our website: www.theurban.ca. Please keep our vulnerable Lutheran Urban Ministry community in your prayers. Please contact me: rhonda@theurban.ca for additional information, or to have your meal team added to the calendar.

Kind regards,
Rhonda Gorham, Ministry Manager, Lutheran Urban Ministry Corp.

We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of age, ability, health, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expressions, language, sexual orientation, life circumstances, marital status, race, or anything else which sometimes divides us. The Urban is committed to racial equity. We welcome diversity and uniqueness. Our unity is in Christ, whose grace is freely given to all. All are welcome. The Lutheran Urban Ministry Corp. is a member of Reconciling Works – Lutherans for Full Participation www.reconcilingworks.org