

Joint Truth and Reconciliation Action Group
e-bulletin for August 2026

Greetings all,

We hope you are finding good opportunities to enjoy the land and the water during the summer months. Take time to consider the relationship that Indigenous peoples have with the land: a profound, living connection rooted in kinship, spirituality and responsibility rather than ownership. The land is viewed as a living relative and teacher—providing identity, language, and sustenance—while humans hold a sacred duty to care for and protect it for future generations.

I'm sending this "JTRAG summer bulletin" in lieu of a full issue of our e-news and resources with key information and background on activities coming up in September. ***Please mark your calendars and share in your networks***

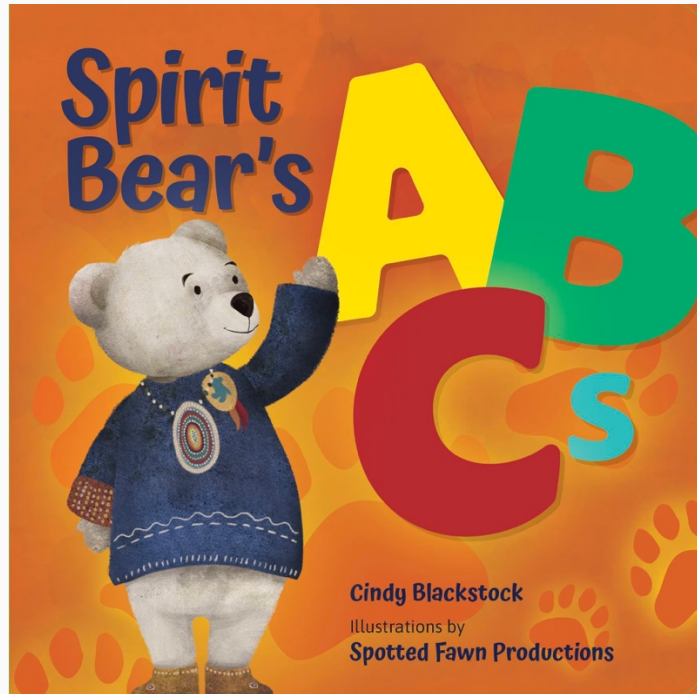
1. **John Olthuis Kingston Tour: Sept 23-29, 2026** where we can learn more about John's extraordinary work on treaty rights and land claims over many years and of his new book *On Dismantling Settler Colonialism*. It advocates for a true reconciliation: one that fosters the creation of political, economic, social, and cultural spaces where Indigenous nations can self-govern, restore their traditional lands, and live in harmony with the earth according to their own values and beliefs.
 - Thurs Sept 24 at noon: John will deliver the Tom Courchene Distinguished Speaker Series for 2026.
See: <https://www.queensu.ca/sps/events/distinguished-lecture-series#tom-courchene> It will take place at Queen's in Robert Sutherland Hall Room 202.
 - Fri Sept 25: John will spend the day with staff and students at the Limestone District School Board. Contact Patrick Vanderholst for details vanderholstp@limestone.on.ca
 - Sat Sept 26 at 10:00 AM: John will participate in a ceremony and sharing circle at All Our Relations Land Trust. See <https://www.aorlt.ca/>
 - Sun Sept 27 at 10:00 AM: a joint service at Sydenham Street United Church, 82 Sydenham St with participation from at least five Kingston congregations. John will preach at the service focused on how we can mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept 30, 2026.
 - Sun Sept 27 at 1:30 PM: a public lecture at The Spire, 82 Sydenham Street including a dialogue between John and Lindsay Borrows, inaugural holder of the Queen's Law Professorship in Indigenous Law & Governance. See <https://law.queensu.ca/directory/lindsay-borrows>. See poster attached.
 - Mon Sept 28: John will spend the day with staff and students at St Lawrence College. Contact Lindsay Brant at LBrant@sl.on.ca for details.

- Tues Sept 29: John will spend the day with faculty and students in the Law Faculty at Queen's. Contact Anya Hageman for details: hagemana@queensu.ca

2. Summer reading

- The [JTRAG monthly reading list](#) attached
 - [Part 2 of Kip Ip's Triple Portrait of John A. Olthuis: Fifty Years of Change on the Land](#). The first portrait introduced the man and his thinking. A portrait, though, is judged by what a life produced. This second piece turns to results. It follows John Olthuis into the struggles themselves, where he and the nations he served pushed Canada to change course on the land (Olthuis, 2025).
 - A new resource from the Quakers: [Truth and reconciliation: Quakers and Reparations](#) has some practical ideas and advice for you. It's primarily aimed at Quaker Meetings, but any settlers in Canada will find something useful here. The resource explains some big topics: truth, reconciliation, and reparations. Most importantly, it helps you discern what reparations could look like in your own context—from learning and relationship-building to advocacy, land return, financial restitution, and support for cultural revitalization work. The resource includes not only clear steps you can take, but also inspiring case studies from several faith communities that are at different places on the journey. Download [Truth and reconciliation: Quakers and reparations \(PDF\)](#).
 - [Unsettling the Story: How the Christian Guardian Portrayed Indigenous Peoples and Why It Matters Today](#). Download at <https://broadview.org/unsettling-ebook/>
3. **See this new resource** from the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society: [Spirit Bear's ABC](#): Spirit Bear's new board book invites pre-schoolers to learn the alphabet alongside Spirit Bear. From A to Z, each letter introduces words and concepts from Spirit Bear's award-winning

Pre-Order *Spirit Bear's ABCs* today!



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Bb



Cc

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power and
can change
the world!



[Learn more about Spirit Bear here](#)

We hope this bulletin offers you some helpful information as you continue on the journey toward reconciliation and a new relationship with Indigenous people. We feel privileged to share this journey with you. As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Michael
on behalf of the Joint Truth and Reconciliation Action Group