

Pathways Webinar: Using Quaker Testimonies and our Personal Stories of Land to Move Beyond Traditional Settler-Colonist Relationships

By Elaine Bishop for Ottawa Monthly Meeting, Sept 3 and 10 from 7-9 pm est.

On Sept 3 and 10, Elaine Bishop, (former CYM Clerk, Member of Winnipeg MM and friend of the Lubicon Lake First Nation) will be offering us a workshop called "Pathways: Using Quaker Testimonies and our Personal Stories of Land to move beyond traditional Settler-Colonist Relationship." By understanding our own relationship to land, we will be able to create a meaningful land acknowledgment.

Register now by asking our web minder to put you in touch with the registrar, Caroline Balderston Parry webminder.ottawafriends@gmail.com

Detailed description:

In this workshop people will reflect on and share their own stories of land. Many folks don't have a sense of their own land stories—where they were born, how they got to the land on which they live, how they interconnect their land and all land to sacredness and to the flows of history of the generations that preceded them on the land.

Elaine says: "It is not my intention to take us to focus only on 'land' but for us to start by being grounded in what our stories of land already are. We all already have such stories although we live in a society that discourages White folk from being aware of that. And we have Quaker testimonies to help us to explore our identities coming from being part of a white supremacy/colonial based country. Once we are so grounded we can see more clearly how we start and/or continue to move out of that broken place into different relationships with ourselves, with others and with land."

"I previously offered a workshop reflecting on stories of land to an Anglican church. It helped people to shift some of their understanding, partly because before 'story' had been what others have, about 'them'. Workshop participants came to understand that we all have a story. To own their own stories created deeper community within the community, but also deeper connections to those whose land this was before settlement."

This workshop was organized by the Ad Hoc Land Acknowledgement Group under the care of OMM's Peace and Social Concern Committee. The workshop is a direct response to the Meeting's request to P&SC to lead the Meeting toward writing a land acknowledgment. Committee members are: Caroline Balderston Parry, Lydia Wong, Colin Stuart and Judith Brown, with oversight provided by Manuela Popovici and Maricarmen Guevara.