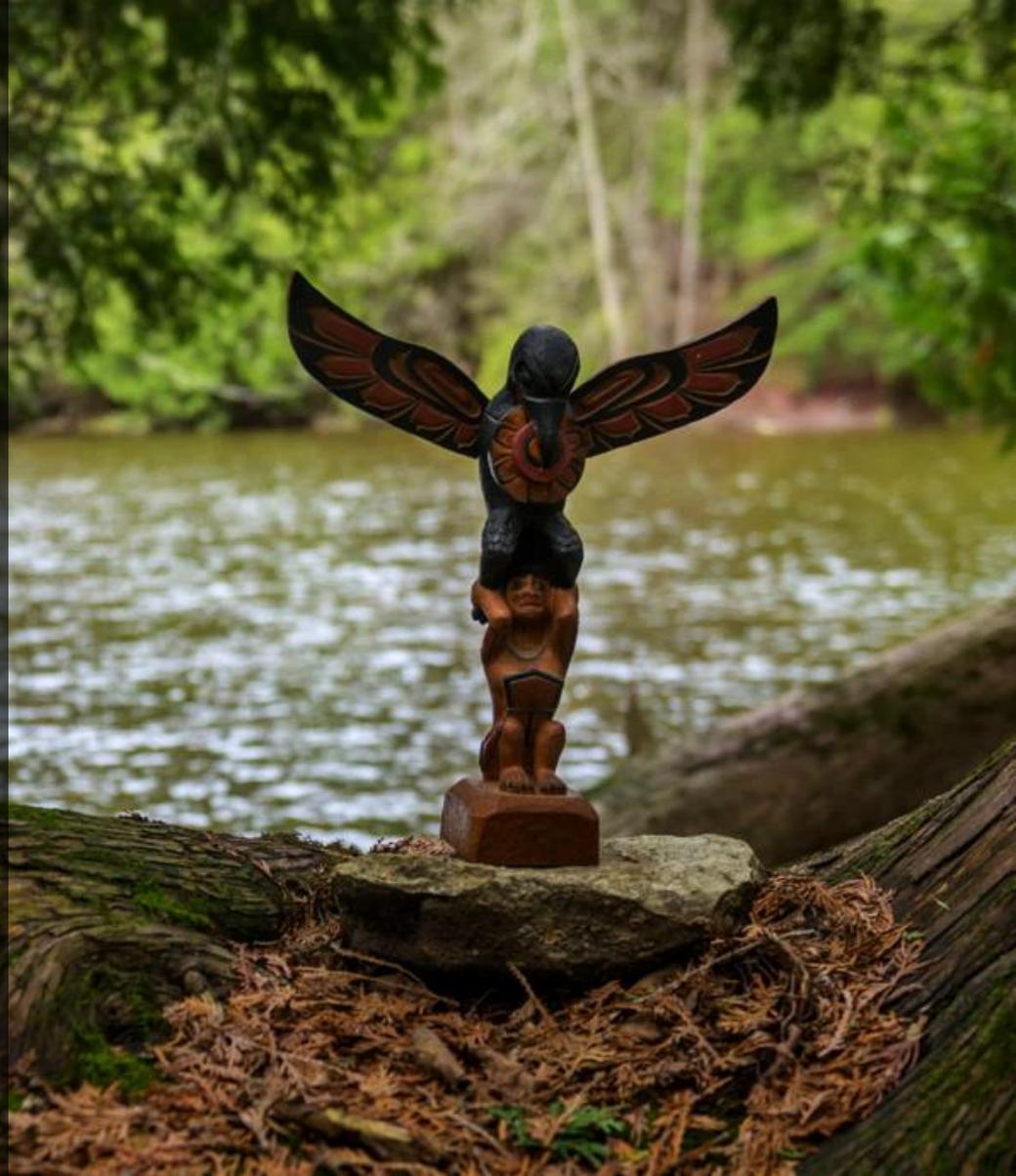




**CROW  
SHIELD  
LODGE**







# Working Towards Reconciliation Together

Reconciliation is a critical, complex and multifaceted process that is about working towards solidarity as a society and country between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples. It is the responsibility of every Canadian.

Reconciliation requires collective efforts from all peoples to revitalize the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and Canadian society, and as we walk in the light of reconciliation together, we are moving forward as one.





## A Connection to Nature and to Each Other

Since time immemorial, First Nations peoples have had ties to the land that have been intricate, respectful, spiritually and physically dependent, grateful, and protective. It was a stewardship responsibility rather than ownership.

A long history of assimilation has attempted to take those teachings and gifts from Indigenous Peoples. Traditional knowledge, languages, cultural practices and oral traditions built up over the millennia are all connected to the land. It is time we move forward in re-establishing relationships through reconnections to the land.

One way to reconnect is to provide opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to learn about these connections together - on the land. The vision is to help walk toward reconciliation together through a Teaching Lodge that will provide the space to do the work.





# Learning from the Land

Disconnecting from conveniences and technology is one way to return to the basics. There is no better teacher or classroom than getting out on the land. Land-based teachings can make this reconnection possible. Sustainability and healing comes from reconnecting to the land.

From the beginning of time the Indigenous Peoples have been at one with Mother Earth. There's a lot of learning that can take place when this is offered. Crow Shield Lodge will offer a space for this reconnection to occur.





## A Place of Safety and Unconditional Love

The lodge will be a place of safety and unconditional love. It will accept all for who they are not for what they've done. For too long some have carried things that have prevented a full and happy life. Intergenerational dysfunction has impacted many generations, and the time is right to interrupt the dysfunction.

Returning to the fundamental aspects of life is extremely important. We have all been disconnected from these basic teachings, which includes our connection to our mother the earth; to feel, to hear, to smell, and to just be. To be broken is to be ordinary, everyone is broken in one way or another. When things are broken the light can shine in and beauty can shine out.





# Helping Us Move Forward

Crow Shield Lodge will be viewed through an Indigenous lens; it will be a place for families, teams, and individuals to work on things that prevent them from moving forward. It will offer a space for retreats, culture camps, team building, and workshops and will function on cycles that rotate throughout the year. These cycles will acknowledge ceremonies that coincide with the seasons.

The lodge will be available to all nations, all beliefs, and all teachings. It will offer therapeutic support for those who have strayed off the path of the 'good life'. There will be traditional knowledge keepers, elders, counsellors, and mental health professionals to walk with and support those who are seeking the path back to the good life.





# Values and Teachings

The lodge will be run on the values on the Seven Grandfathers Teachings; it will also support the Medicine Wheel teachings. Both of which are rooted in First Nations' philosophies. It will also allow for the exploration of different roles and responsibilities that include masculine, feminine, and two spirited peoples.

A number of other offerings are planned, both in the short-term and in long-term planning. Some of these include:

- energy work and traditional doctoring by trained professionals for holistic wellness
- purification ceremonies/sweat lodge
- naming ceremonies
- full moon ceremonies
- fasting camp
- ceremonies to acknowledge and honour all of our relations







# Community Support

Crow Shield Lodge is an investment in and for the community and will promote vision and wellbeing by offering a place to look within. In order to make the vision of the Teaching Lodge a reality much work is still to be done.

While we have already partnered with an organization that is willing to work with us to provide the land space to work on, we have a number of people willing to bring in, strengths, spirits, teachings, and gifts for programming. We still require substantial financial support to carry the vision to the next level.





# Supporting the Project

## **Kinana'skomitin to our partners and friends:**

Kitchener-Waterloo House Church Assembly

Mennonite Central Committee Canada

Canadian Mental Health Association

Healing of the Seven Generations

Pfenning's Organic Vegetables

YMCA of Three Rivers

Kindred Credit Union

The United Church of Canada

Private donors

LIFE



# Supporting the Project

If this project sounds like it is something that is of interest to you and/or your organization and you would like more information, please let me know and we can set up a time to discuss further.

**In Spirit and Unity,**

Clarence Cachagee

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**Crow Shield Lodge**

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