

# WOODLAND CULTURAL CENTRE DONOR NEWS

## In This Issue...

### GivingTuesday 2023 is Here

Learn how you can support the  
Dwadwenaga:da:t Language  
Centre this GivingTuesday

### Nya:wəh/Niá:wən for Your Support

Check out some of the exciting  
things that happened this September

*And more...*



# To our Supporters Following National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a personal note from our Executive Director

HEATHER GEORGE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am incredibly grateful for the support our donors give to the Woodland Cultural Centre. Your generosity helps to fund many areas of our work, the physical repairs to our historic buildings; the education department's important in person and virtual programs; the curatorial department who produce amazing exhibitions and care for over 35,000 artifacts; our library with amazing archival and contemporary resources and today I am most thankful for the support of the Dwadwēnagá:da:t Language Centre.

I, like many Indigenous people, are on the path to reclaim cultural and linguistic understandings that support our mental health, wellbeing, and sense of self. Thanks to your generosity I was able to sit with the Assistant Manager for our language department, George Doxtator, and have a beautiful conversation about how to express my thanks and gratitude to you all. Until today, the only word I knew to mean 'thanks' was niá:wēn, but I learned that it's a much more complicated, and almost spiritual form of gratitude. I don't have the space here to delve into that word and the many meanings it holds for different speakers, but I did learn a new word to share with all of you:

**“Wa'tkwanonhwerá:ton”** which to my ears sounds like: “what- gWa-noonh-weh-LA-doon”.

George shared with me that the “LA” sound as opposed to an “rla” sound is reflective of a dialect differences between Akwesasne Kanien'kéha (Mohawk) and other communities of speakers. The wa't section and last apostrophe reflect the tense of the word. The “kwa” (sounds like gWa) means “I to you all”, and as George explained it would be switched to “kon” (sounds like goon) if I was only thanking one person. The main part of the word (the verb) “nonhwerá:ton” (sounds like noonh-weh-LA-doon) is where things get really interesting and we start to express some of our philosophical understandings and ways of being. There isn't really a direct translation for this but what it is expressing is something along the lines of good, celebratory, and embracing energy being sent forth – a powerful thought at a time when so much of the world is experiencing trauma and fear.

This is a new word I will be using regularly so again - wa'tkwanonhwerá:ton' for your support of the work we do at the Woodland Cultural Centre, as it allows us to change hearts and minds, and allows us to embrace kindness, empathy and healing. Like our languages, your support is sending forth good energy into the world.



Image Credit: Canada Post



Heather George  
Executive Director

Scan to  
Support  
WCC



# Help the Dwaḡwēnaga:da:t Language Centre this GivingTuesday to Raise \$15,000 to Support the Revitalization of First Nations Languages

This year, Giving Tuesday will be Tuesday November 28th, and the Woodland Cultural Centre (WCC) is asking you to help us raise \$15,000 for the Dwaḡwēnaga:da:t Language Department. This year's campaign is targeted to help support WCC's language department in their work to strengthen and revitalize Hodinohsho:ni languages and cultures.

## What is GivingTuesday?

GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. It's now evolved into a movement that unleashes the power of radical generosity around the world. GivingTuesday reimagines a world built upon shared humanity and generosity. Their global network collaborates year-round to inspire generosity around the world, with a common mission to build a world where generosity is part of everyday life.

## What does the Dwaḡwēnaga:da:t Language Centre do?

The Woodland Cultural Centre Dwaḡwēnaga:da:t Language Centre is responsible for a range of initiatives aimed at preserving, revitalizing, and promoting Haudenosaunee languages – Cayuga, Mohawk, Onondaga, Oneida, Seneca, and Tuscarora. Our department also works with other Indigenous languages including Wyandot, Lenape, Tutela, and Neutral. Our core activities encompass:

- Actively promoting the use of Cayuga and Mohawk at the Woodland Cultural Centre.
- Offering language resources for purchase at the Woodland Cultural Centre Museum Gift Shop.
- Preserving and restoring old audio recordings featuring language excerpts.
- Maintaining an accessible database of stories, speeches, and songs related to Haudenosaunee languages.
- Collaborating with language stakeholders in education to ensure contemporary pedagogy meets the unique linguistic needs of Hodinohsho:ni languages.
- Promoting community-oriented language events with the Six Nations of the Grand River, Wahta, and Tyendinaga public.
- Work with consultants and vendors from all Six Nations to keep these critically endangered languages alive for the foreseeable future.
- Hosting other public events like smoke dance competitions and language bingos.

When you donate to the Dwaḡwēnaga:da:t Language Department, you are acting as an ally, and helping Hodinohsho:ni of all ages and walks of life from the Grand River. **Help us to continue our critical work in re-connecting and re-establishing Hodinohsho:ni with our cultures, languages and ceremonies that were stolen through warfare, the residential school system, and assimilation policies throughout history.**

Make sure to follow our social media to be reminded of this important day! Many community supporters, schools and organizations are using the month of November to raise awareness and funds to make an impact with their donation by making it on November 28th. WCC encourages all fundraisers to contact [development@woodlandculturalcentre.ca](mailto:development@woodlandculturalcentre.ca).



# GI ING TUESDAY



# Nya:wəh/Niá:wen to Wolf Energy for their generous donation of \$20,000 this October

On October 1st, 2023, our development staff had the pleasure of visiting Wahta for another cheque presentation at Wolf Energy & Muskoka Trading Post. They generously donated \$20,000 from the sales of their Every Child Matters shirts and merchandise.

Nya:wəh go:wah to Lenny and the staff at Wolf Energy for their continued support of the Woodland Cultural Centre and their dedication to ensuring we can continue to work towards our mission. Another nya:wəh to Chief Philip Franks for attending and helping is to celebrate this incredible contribution.

Owner of Wolf Energy & Muskoka Trading Post, Lenny Montour writes, “The Woodland Cultural Centre plays a pivotal role in preserving, promoting, and educating people about Indigenous culture and history. As a Mohawk native, who runs a business on a native reserve, who also employs other native people, supporting the Woodland Cultural Centre means a lot to me and to us at Wolf Energy. They’re doing incredible work, sharing stories and lessons that need to be told. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation isn’t just a date on the calendar. It’s a day I take to heart, thinking about the painful past our people went through with the residential schools. The missing children, the families left to grieve, and the survivors - those were our people, our community, and their stories weigh heavy. We remember not just to look back, but to make sure we move forward in the right way. By supporting each other and places like the Woodland Cultural Centre, we make sure those stories live on and guide us.”

This donation will help our departments to continue developing new resources and programming to educate and celebrate Hodinohsho:ni cultures, languages, history, and art.



## St. Joseph’s Healthcare continues their partnership with Woodland Cultural Centre this September



This September the Woodland Cultural Centre development/gift shop team was invited to different St. Joseph’s Healthcare locations in Hamilton to sell orange shirts and other items. Through these outreach sales days, we were able to make \$3,482! We are so appreciative for the invitation and the continued support from St. Joseph’s Healthcare.

“It has been an honour to form a supportive partnership with the Woodland Cultural Centre. St. Joseph’s Health System, which operates healthcare campuses throughout the region (Hamilton, Kitchener, Guelph, and Brantford) is fortunate to have had senior leaders and other team members tour the Centre and the former Mohawk Institute. We feel passionately about the need to support Woodland and its work in ‘Saving the Evidence’ in order to create awareness for the Truth and work toward Reconciliation. Our organization recently hosted Woodland staff on-site to sell Orange Shirts in support of the Centre in a more tangible way as well.”

# Canada Post's 2023 Truth and Reconciliation Stamp is launched at Woodland Cultural Centre

Woodland Cultural Centre staff had the pleasure to partner with Canada Post to host a private launch of their 2023 Truth and Reconciliation stamp at Woodland. This year, the former Mohawk Institute was featured on the cover of the collectors booklet.

Nya:węh/Niá:wen to the team at Canada Post for working so hard to make this event such a success. It was so incredible to work with you and see the care and attention you put into bringing awareness to National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The stamps and booklets are available for purchase on the [Canada Post website](https://www.canadapost.ca) or where you can buy stamps.



Image Credit: Canada Post



Image Credit: Canada Post



Image Credit: Canada Post

## Join the Woodland Cultural Centre at Dwadę'nyota' ne:' Gayętwagwęh

Dwadę'nyota' ne:' Gayętwagwęh "We Celebrate the Harvested Food is happening on November 17th-18th.

Friday, November 17th: 6:00pm-9:00pm

Coffee House with performances by Leah Belle, James Wilson, Jace Martin, and Ila Barker.

Saturday, November 18th: 11:00 Am – 4:00 PM

Join us for a Community Social happening from 11:00AM – 1:00 PM, with family activities happening all day in the Museum Gallery. Food will be available at 1:00 PM for no cost to attendees. A songwriting workshop will be available with Ila Barker from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM, with limited space available.







# SUPPORT WOODLAND

## Donation Levels

- \$100 – \$499 -will receive acknowledgement on the WCC website updated twice per year (downloadable PDF)
- \$500 – \$1,499 -will receive invitation to screening of a special virtual tour event and Q & A session and acknowledgement in the WCC Annual Report
- \$1,500 - \$4,999 - will receive preview invitation to exhibitions, acknowledgement on the WCC website for the fiscal year period of the donation and invitation to donor recognition event
- \$5,000 + - will receive a copy of WCC anniversary and other publications

## DONATE NOW!

Woodland Cultural Centre needs your help to ensure that we can continue to develop and provide programming and resources to our community and the public!

### Support Woodland

## INTERESTED IN HOSTING A FUNDRAISER?

We can't thank our fundraisers enough for all the hard work they put into their initiatives!

[Click here to access our third-party fundraising forms!](#)

If you're interested in running a fundraiser for the Woodland Cultural Centre, please contact us at 519-759-2650 x 232 or [email here](#). We are here to support you and we can't wait to work with you!

### PAYMENT DETAILS

☐ I have enclosed a cheque  
(payable to Woodland Cultural Centre)

☐ Donate online  
([www.woodlandculturalcentre.ca/donate/](http://www.woodlandculturalcentre.ca/donate/))

### Charitable registration number: 891177990RR0001

Woodland Cultural Centre respects your privacy. We protect your personal information and adhere to all legislative requirements with respect to protecting privacy. We do not rent, sell or trade our mailing lists. The information you provide will be used to deliver services and to keep you informed and up-to-date on the activities of Woodland Cultural Centre through periodic contact. If at any time you wish to be removed from any of these lists, simply contact Woodland Cultural Centre at 519-759-2650 X 232.

With my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ I am please to support the Woodland Cultural Centre

### CONTACT DETAILS

NAME

E-MAIL ADDRESS

STREET NAME

SUITE/APT #

CITY

PROVINCE

POSTAL CODE

PHONE

CELL PHONE

NAME FOR RECOGNITION ON WCC WEBSITE (FOR DONORS \$100 AND UP)