

Dec 1st, 2016

Dear KWIC members and friends,

We are grateful to be living and working in Nogojiwanong (Peterborough) and the Kawarthas, rich with deep and challenging conversations, and a breadth of community engagement, working towards local and global equity, climate justice, human rights, de-colonization, and sustainability. The intersection of the arts and social justice through film, performance, and spoken word, as well as opportunities for collective learning and action, are all truly inspiring.

In this time of urgency and profound change in the global sphere, we believe there is need for reflection and stillness. Poet, social activist, writer and mystic, Thomas Merton, wrote:

“There is a pervasive form of contemporary violence to which the idealist most easily succumbs: activism and overwork. The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence. To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything, is to succumb to violence. The frenzy of our activism neutralizes our work for peace. It destroys our own inner capacity for peace. It destroys the fruitfulness of our own work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful.”

We are living in unprecedented times. Compassionate care of ourselves and each other is essential if we are to create a culture of welcoming and kindness, and to inform our work with a considered response and mindful intent as we create social change together. And so, we have a few peaceful invitations for you!



- Join us for tea meditation each Friday @ 10am at KWIC’s Global Education & Resource Centre (located at Trent University)
- Drop-In to the centre anytime for quiet study, conversation, or to connect with kindred souls
- Come out to our AGM (Jan 19th) for an experiential evening exploring Paulo Freire’s concept of RADICAL LOVE and what it means for us in this time in history (more details can be found in the enclosed newsletter.)

In the Fall/Winter newsletter, you will also find more active ways to get informed and involved over the coming weeks. As we enter a new year and witness Canada’s 150th Anniversary of Confederation, take time to consider whose voices and stories have shaped the narrative of Canadian history and seek out those who are missing still. In the wake of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission’s Report, may all Canadians learn to appreciate the generosity of Indigenous Peoples who welcomed weary newcomers long before confederation. 2017 presents an opportunity to understand the impact of settler arrival and find opportunities to listen, learn and build lasting, positive relationships together.

We thank you for all your support that enables KWIC to do what we do, and for your consideration of our annual fundraising appeal. We invite you to visit our website for program updates, connect with us on social media, sign-up for monthly e-news, or explore volunteer opportunities at our Feb 9th Winter Open House.

With best wishes for a joyful holiday and a new year resplendent with hope and possibility,

Julie Cosgrove, Executive Director

James Wilkes, Chair – KWIC Board of Directors