

## **Building Bridges – Creating Connections to Honour the Truth and Reconcile for the Future--Breakout**

Dr. John Steckley was our guest speaker at CFUW Vaughan's Annual Dinner in April 2016. Dr. Steckley taught at Humber College in Toronto from 1983 to 2015, where he specialized in teaching Anthropology, Sociology and Aboriginal Studies. He had also taught the same subjects at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Laurentian University and Trent University. He has written widely on a variety of sociological and anthropological topics published 18 books to date including six focussing on the Wendat (Huron) language. His 2007 *Huron-English Dictionary* was the first book of its type for over 250 years to be published. Although retired, he is currently working as tribal linguist for the Wyandotte of Oklahoma. Dr. Steckley's presentation to us focussed on his work in helping to bring "lost" languages back and anecdotes from his teaching career.

The word **Toronto** derived from an Iroquois term meaning 'where there are trees in water.' The Mohawks used the phrase to describe 'The Narrows', the fast-moving waters between present day lakes Couchiching and Simcoe.

The name **Canada** likely comes from the Huron-Iroquois word "kanata," meaning "village" or "settlement."

The **name** for the province of **Ontario** is from an Iroquois word meaning beautiful lake or beautiful water and was first used for Lake Ontario, one of the Great Lakes.

*A few useful resources:*

Recommended reading--The Truth and Reconciliation Report in particular the 94 Calls to Action (Recommendations), ranging across Child Welfare, Education, Sports, Media, Missing and Murdered Women and Children, Justice, Health issues, Church statements and apologies. *Links to a variety of excellent resources are on the TRC website.*

[www.trc.ca/websites/](http://www.trc.ca/websites/) and Truth and Reconciliation Commission Panel webcasts: <https://www.youtube.com/>

Ontario Teachers Federation: <http://www.otffeo.on.ca/en/resources/useful-links/aboriginal-education/>

Queen's Library--Guide to Canadian Aboriginal Resources: <http://library.queensu.ca/webedu/grad/aboriginal.pdf>

York University Indigenous Studies Department: [indigenous.des.laps.yorku.ca/](http://indigenous.des.laps.yorku.ca/)

University of Toronto, OISE--Deepening Knowledge, Resources for and About Aboriginal Education: [http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/deepeningknowledge/Teacher\\_Resources/Lesson\\_Plans/index.html](http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/deepeningknowledge/Teacher_Resources/Lesson_Plans/index.html)

Aboriginal owned family business: <http://www.goodminds.com/>

There are course outlines and documents on the Ontario Ministry of Education website:

<https://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/supporting.html> and

<http://find.gov.on.ca/?owner=edu&lang=en&q=aboriginal+toolkit>

Tanya Senk's video, Teaching Rock [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (Tanya spoke at the OC Standing Committee in March 2016)

Dr. Susan Dion's Decolonizing our Schools, Aboriginal Education in the Toronto District School Board, 2010 [ycec.edu.yorku.ca/files/2012/11/Decolonizing-Our-Schools.pdf](http://ycec.edu.yorku.ca/files/2012/11/Decolonizing-Our-Schools.pdf)

David Bouchard's books for children, particularly: Seven Sacred Teachings; I am Raven; Dreamcatcher; and The Great Law <http://www.davidbouchardbooks.com/>