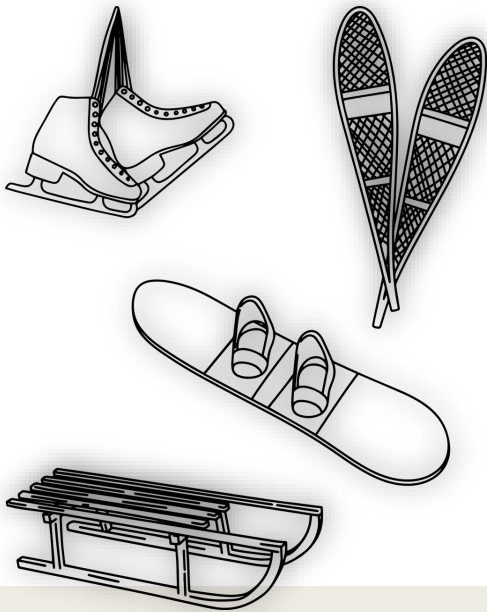


## March 2022 Update

### Old Ways & New Understanding

The recent 2022 Winter Olympics were the perfect reminder for me of the creativity & resilience of athletes worldwide—and how many people love watching them compete! Did you realize, though, how many winter activities originated within First Nation cultures? Activities like **snowshoeing** and **ice-fishing**, to name two. And, winter games like **hockey** & **tobogganing**.



**“Every scroll keeper who has learned to walk in the ways of Creator's Good Road is like the head of a family, an elder who opens the medicine pouch of his heart, sharing wisdom that is both new and old, bringing new understanding to the old ways.”**

**—Matthew 13:52 FNV**

I, however, prefer sitting by a fireplace with a compelling book and a steaming cup of cocoa! (Or a bowl of chicken chili fresh from the crockpot!) Like many in Native cultures, we all gather around our storytellers—though instead of our elders, non-Natives tend to gather around a TV or in a movie theater. In this letter, I'd like to try introducing the beauty of a more Indigenous perspective—both what Natives and non-Natives share and what's different!

### Introducing a More Indigenous Perspective

For instance, instead of **January**, let's refer to our first lunar month as “Winter's Younger Brother” (Cree). Or “Hard Moon” (Lakota). And **February** becomes the time of “Frost Sparkling in the Sun” (Arapaho). Or “Coyote Moon” (Shoshone). Instead of **March**, let's refer to our third lunar month as “Moon of the Sore Eyes” (Lakota). Or “Eagle Moon” (Cree). And **April** becomes “Melting Moon” (Shoshone). Or the time of “Ice Breaking in the River” (Arapaho).

**“[D]o not accept anyone's accusation against you for not following laws about what you should eat or drink, or whether you participate in celebrating festivals, or New Moon ceremonies, or a Day of Resting.”**

**—Colossians 2:16 FNV**

In addition, consider the number four. We commonly note four seasons (winter, spring, summer & fall). And speak of four directions (east, south, west & north). We can divide our day into four parts (morning, noon, night & midnight). And in Scripture: The Ark of the Covenant—the acacia wood chest that the Israelite tribes used for the tablets of God's law—had four horns (Exod 25:10-16). As a reminder of God's instructions, four tassels were required on a prayer shawl (Deut 22:12). And, both Old & New Testament writers refer to the four winds (Jer 49:36, Dan 7:2, Matt 24:31 & Mark 13:27). Four is an important number in many Indigenous cultures.

## A Quartet of Some Native Sounds

Did you know that many and various forms of music in our country have been influenced by Native artists? (See the documentary *Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World* (2017) for more of that story. (trailer [link](#))) And, if you haven't made time to listen to music lately, feel the beat! Here are four of my favorite artists in the Native music scene, with online links.

**Cheryl Bear** *A'BA* from the album *A'BA* (music & video [link](#))

**Broken Walls** *Beautiful Great One* from the album *Beautiful Great One* (music [link](#))

**"[T]ell the ancient stories and sing the traditional songs. Sing spiritual songs from your heart as you dance before the Great Spirit."**

**—Ephesians 5:19 FNV**

**Beckah Shae** *Awake* single (music video [link](#)) And *Heartbeat* from the album *Champion* (music video [link](#))

**Supaman** *I Hope You Know* single (music video [link](#)) And his story *Under the Big Sky* ([link](#))

## Story-telling with a Native Eye

It's now widely known that in winter in North America, First Nation cultures often share a tradition of story-telling. Watch these films that tell the stories of strong and creative Indigenous people from various tribes. And this is just a start....



**Cherokee Word for Water (2013)** *Activist and tribal leader Wilma Mankiller (Cherokee) brings together the community to create a stable water supply in Bell, OK. BASED ON THE TRUE STORY* (trailer [link](#)) (film teaser [link](#))

**Te Ata (2016)** *Artist and actress Mary Thompson Fisher (Chickasaw) uses theater arts and story-telling to give a voice to the Chickasaw Nation. BASED ON THE TRUE STORY* (trailer [link](#)) (website [link](#))

**"... if your eye is clear [ie, you are generous and able to see the Good Road], your whole being is filled with light."**

**—Matthew 6:22b FNV**

**Indian Horse (2017)** *Richard Wagamese (Ojibwe) endures residential school and finds an escape through joining the school hockey team. BASED ON THE TRUE STORY* (trailer [link](#)) (website [link](#))

**Gather (2020)** *Multiple North American tribes join together to restore food sovereignty to their nations and heal their communities. DOCUMENTARY* (trailer [link](#)) (website [link](#))

## Praises and Prayer Requests

- **OLD WAYS & NEW UNDERSTANDING REQUEST** Please let God move your heart to pray for whatever the Spirit has raised within you as you've read & heard—and, hopefully, experienced—some First Nation stories in this letter! **A'HO!**

Tara

NAIM staff and the ministries they represent are solely funded through and fully accountable to North America Indigenous Ministries.

Give online at [www.naim.ca](http://www.naim.ca). Or, make checks out to NAIM and send to:  
PO Box 499, Sumas, WA 98295.

To be a financial Ministry Partner, please designate donations to NAIM **Project #771**.