

**Oral Report to the Ontario Provincial Convention
From Joanna Sisk Ottawa Diocesan President
July 2015**

Our social justice project is to build relationship with our aboriginal sister through education, prayer and support.

In March we participated in the Kairos Blanket Exercise.

WOW what an education!

The Kairos Blanket Exercise it is an experiential way to explore the nation- to- nation relationship between indigenous and non indigenous peoples in Canada.

As the name suggests, the workshop begins with blankets arranged on the floor to represent Canada before the arrival of Europeans.

**We the participants represented the First peoples.
We moved onto the blankets and were taken back in time to the arrival of Europeans.**

A narrator and a European read a script which lead us through the history of treaty-making, colonization and resistance that resulted in the nation we live in today.

At the end of the exercise only a few people remained on the blankets which have been folded into small bundles and covered only a fraction of their original area, again, as their traditional land shrinks- all according to legal negotiating in someone else's language.

The exercise took 1 ½ hours followed by a talking circle which raised deep emotions and memories of what we were taught in school – not this version.

(The Indigenous rights history we're rarely taught)

This was an eye opener, both eyes.

It certainly raised awareness and a desire to build relationship which we carried to our Diocesan Convention.

With one heart centred on Christ we welcome our aboriginal peoples history and learn from it.

With one voice we share their story and our role in it with courage and a desire to share it with others.

With one mission we are educating our members to aboriginal situations and a desire to bring about change.