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Poverty • Rights • Change

Season 24

# Five Good Ideas®



## Amplifying community voices to achieve policy change

**Tuesday, November 17, 2026 | 1-2 p.m.**

Advocacy from the non-profit sector on social issues and human rights is needed now more than ever. One underused tool for amplifying community voices and pressing governments to act is the international human rights system. It can provide powerful opportunities to advance change.

Cora McGuire-Cyrette will share insights and lessons learned from her experience amplifying Indigenous women's stories, empowering Indigenous youth, and holding governments accountable for their human rights obligations.

## Cora McGuire-Cyrette



**Chief Executive Officer**
**Ontario Native Women's Association**

Cora McGuire-Cyrette has been serving as the Chief Executive Officer of the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA), the largest and oldest Indigenous women's organization in Canada, since 2015. Ending violence against Indigenous women and their families and ensuring equal access to justice, education, health services, environmental stewardship, and economic development, sit at the cornerstone of the organization. A proud member of the Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation), she uses her voice to champion the rights of Indigenous women and girls, cultivate healing, create safe spaces, and support Indigenous women and youth as they reclaim their role as leaders. As a role model in Indigenous women's leadership in Canada, Cora has been integral to the development of the Ontario Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy, Ontario's Provincial Indigenous Women's Advisory Council and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

## Five Good Ideas

1. **Begin with story** – people with lived experience are the experts. We have a responsibility to honour and act on their stories and solutions.
2. **Spend time listening and learning** – enter this work with humility, listen and learn from others to understand how to navigate the system and influence while protecting your safety.
3. **Be targeted and strategic** – focus where you can make the most impact.
4. **Empower youth to take up their leadership roles** – youth are the leaders of today.
5. **Develop and nurture relationships, including across borders** – none of us do this work alone, and we are stronger together. Allies can make space and amplify your voice.

## Resources

- *The Power of Story*, by Harold R. Johnson
- *The InBetween Leader: Cultivating Courage and Unity in a Complex World*, by Jody Wilson-Raybould and Roshan Danesh
- ISHR Simple Guide to the UN Treaty Bodies
- ONWA's Shadow Report for Canada's 10th Review under the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- Geneva – a poem by Stephanie Mikki Adams, Inuk Poet

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# FIVE GOOD IDEAS

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR NON-PROFIT SUCCESS

*Edited by* **ALAN BROADBENT AND RATNA OMIDVAR**

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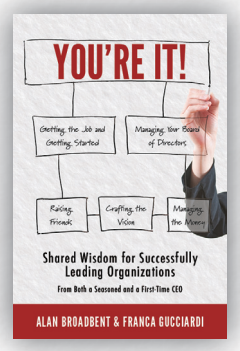
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