



ST. CROIX VALLEY FOUNDATION

Conversations of the Valley

Racial Justice Listening and Learning



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Featuring: Gwen Westerman, Ph.D., Artist,
Poet, Historian and Teacher

Travelways of the Dakota People in the St. Croix River Valley



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Discuss the impact of place names as symbols of power

Starter Questions:

- How do we learn the Indigenous names of places around us?
- Who can change the names of places?
- What happens when the origin of a place name is forgotten?



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Discuss the importance of recognizing cultural connections of rivers and travelways

Starter Questions:

- How can rivers and travelways have “culture”?
- Who decides what stories are told about the culture of a place?
- Why should we care about the cultural connections of rivers?



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Thank You!

Please join us for the final session in the series
Racial Justice: Listening and Learning

May 19: *Eliminating the Power of Racial Stereotypes Through Authentic Relationships* featuring author [Alexs Pate](#)