

# National Gathering of Elders 2017

## *COMING HOME, VOICES OF ELDERS*



September 11 – 14, 2017  
Edmonton Expo Centre  
7515 -118 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Treaty 6 Territory

# PROGRAM

## WELCOME FROM GRAND CHIEF RUPERT MENEEN

I am truly humbled and honoured to welcome each and every Elder, youth and visitor from coast to coast to the inaugural National Gathering of Elders 2017 here in Edmonton, Alberta. Thank you all for coming.

“Amiskwaci-waskahikan,” which in Cree translates into Beaver Hills House, was known as a Gathering Place for Indigenous Peoples from all across Turtle Island. Fort Edmonton was established near this Gathering Place in the late 1700’s. In time, Fort Edmonton grew to become Edmonton, the capital of Alberta. Edmonton is still a Gathering Place for Indigenous Peoples, so it is fitting that the inaugural National Gathering of Elders will be held in Amiskwaci-waskahikan.



The Gathering marks the first time in Canada’s history that First Nations, Metis and Inuit elders and seniors from every region of Canada will have come together in the spirit of friendship and reconciliation. Building on the theme ‘*Coming Home, Voices of Elders*,’ the Gathering is intended to be a place for laughter and the sharing of culture, traditions, history, and an opportunity for the creation of long lasting connections.

We all have the opportunity with this Gathering to show you, our Elders that we value your words, we value your teachings and we honour your legacy and resilience. We also encourage all visitors and the general public to continue to work towards a greater understanding of the diverse First Nation’s, Metis, and Inuit histories, cultures, languages, traditions, and protocols from across Canada.

The 2017 National Gathering of Elders is the culmination of twelve months of planning, spearheaded by a National Gathering of Elders Advisory Council and a core group of organizers from Treaty 6, Treaty 7, and Treaty 8 First Nations (Alberta), the Metis Nation of Alberta, Metis Settlements General Council, Inuit Edmonton and the Assembly of First Nations – Alberta. I would like to thank our Elders Advisory Council, Leadership Council, Event Coordinators, our countless volunteers as well as our government, business and industry partners for their thoughtful contributions towards this historic event.

Our Elders Advisory Council was very active in planning the Gathering’s agenda, and activities were based on some of the things they thought everyone would enjoy and appreciate. Planned activities include opening and closing ceremonies featuring a parade of Nations, health and wellness sessions, Indigenous art exhibits, a tradeshow, and discussion forums on climate change, missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, revitalization of Indigenous languages and culture, Indigenous cycle of life and reconciliation. There will be also be an intercultural showcase featuring Indigenous entertainers, a talent show, cultural excursions and elder dance socials.

It is our intention to provide a safe, fun and respectful environment where all are welcome. Once again, thank you all for attending the National Gathering of Elders 2017 and we hope you enjoy your time with us.

Yours truly,

Chief Rupert Meneen, Tallcree Tribal Government  
Grand Chief, Treaty 8 First Nations (Alberta)  
Host First Nation for the National Gathering of Elders





9 :00 p.m. –  
11:00 p.m.

**FRIENDSHIP / UNITY DANCE**  
Hall D – Edmonton Expo Centre

**NATIONAL GATHERING OF ELDERS - DAY THREE**  
**Wednesday, September 13, 2017**

7:00 a.m.	<b>PIPE CEREMONY</b>	<b>Cultural Village Expo Centre</b>
8:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.	<b>REGISTRATION</b>	<b>Main Entrance Expo Centre</b>
10:00 a.m – 5:00 p.m	<b>HOLISTIC WELLNESS</b> Wellness practitioners will be available for: Massage Therapy      Healing touch therapy Energy clearing      Reiki Access bars      Hair, Nails, Esthetics Comprehensive Health Services (ie. hand wax therapy, hearing testing etc.)	<b>Room 201/202</b>
9 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.	<b>ELDERS FORUMS</b>	<b>EXPO CENTRE</b>
	<b>Reconciliation – Room 107-107A</b> <b>Revitalization of Culture &amp; Language – Room 108-108A</b> <b>Indigenous Health – Room 109-109A</b>	<b>Climate Change – Room 105</b> <b>Missing &amp; Murdered Indigenous Women – Room 104</b>
10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.	<b>NGE TRADE SHOW</b>	<b>Hall F Expo Centre</b>
<b>9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>ELDERS FORUM</b>	
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>	<b>Location: 107-107A</b> Keynote: Dr. Wilton Littlechild, Grand Chief, Treaty 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FN: Phyllis Googoo</li> <li>• Metis: Susanne Calliou</li> <li>• Inuit: Jean Gruben</li> </ul>	
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>	<b>Location: Room 105</b> Keynote: Kevin Hart, Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief, MB Indigenous Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FN: Chuck Hume</li> <li>• Metis: Cliff Supernault</li> <li>• Inuit: Lillian Elias</li> </ul>	
<b>REVITALIZATION OF CULTURE &amp; LANGUAGE</b>	<b>Location: Room 108-108A</b> Keynote: Robert Falcon-Quellette, MP Indigenous Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FN: Elmer Courchene</li> <li>• Metis: Elmer Ghostkeeper</li> <li>• Inuit : Goota Desmarais</li> </ul>	
<b>MISSING &amp; MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMAN &amp; GIRLS</b>	<b>Location: Room 104</b> Keynote: Tanya Kappo Indigenous Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FN: Gwen Point</li> <li>• Metis: Muriel Stanley Venne</li> <li>• Inuit: Charlotte Wolfrey</li> </ul>	

<b>NATIONAL GATHERING OF ELDERS - DAY THREE</b> <b>Wednesday, September 13, 2017</b>		
<b>INDIGENOUS HEALTH</b>	<b>Location: 109-109A</b> Keynote: Marilyn Buffalo, Indigenous Cultural Advisor, University of Alberta Indigenous Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FN: Dr. Reg Crowshoe</li> <li>• Metis: Lorraine Deschambeau</li> <li>• Inuit: Susan Peffer</li> </ul>	
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>SWEAT CEREMONY</b> Transportation is available for first 20 only	<b>Poundmaker Healing Lodge, St. Albert</b>
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>FORT EDMONTON PARK TOUR</b> Transportation is available for first 20 only	<b>Fort Edmonton Park</b>
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b> First Seating	<b>Hall E Expo Centre</b>
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b> Second Seating	<b>Hall E Expo Centre</b>
<b>ELDERS FORUM HIGHLIGHTS PRESENTATIONS AND OPEN MIC HALL D</b>		
2:00 p.m.	<b>RECONCILIATION</b> Presented by Grand Chief Wilton Littlechild	
2:30 p.m.	<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Presented by Regional Chief Kevin Hart	
3:00 p.m.	<b>REVITALIZATION OF CULTURE AND LANGUAGE</b> Presented by Robert Falcon-Quellette, MP	
3:30 p.m.	<b>MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS</b> Presented by Tanya Kappo	
4:00 p.m.	<b>INDIGENOUS CYCLE OF LIFE</b> Presented by Marilyn Buffalo	
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	<b>SUPPER BREAK</b> First Seating	<b>Hall E Expo Centre</b>
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	<b>SECOND SEATING</b> Second Seating	<b>Hall E Expo Centre</b>
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	<b>Elders Talent Show</b> <i>Elders must be registered to compete. Please register in advance.</i>	<b>Hall D Expo Centre</b>
9:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.	<b>Elders Social Dance</b>	<b>Hall D Expo Centre</b>

<b>NATIONAL GATHERING OF ELDERS - DAY FOUR</b> <b>Thursday, September 14, 2017</b>		
7:00 a.m.	<b>PIPE CEREMONY</b>	<b>Cultural Village Expo Centre</b>
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	<b>COMING HOME, VOICE OF OUR ELDERS</b> <b>VIDEO MONTAGE</b>	<b>Hall D Expo Centre</b>

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p><b>CLOSING CEREMONIES</b></p> <p><b>CLOSING REMARKS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Grand Chief Meneen</li><li>❖ NGE Advisory Council</li><li>❖ Lee Thomas, Social Innovation, Government of Canada</li></ul> <p><b>ANNOUNCEMENT OF HOST FOR NATIONAL ELDERS GATHERING 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Host Indigenous Nation</li></ul>
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Alberta



FOURcomm



Assembly of First Nations



Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires autochtones et du Nord Canada



