



## PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document has been created as a guide to help EEDC members maintain cultural sensitivity and respectful interactions in the field. Even when the target audience may not be Indigenous, it is always important and our duty through Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) to respect one another and the diverse cultures we have in Alberta. This document will take GOA staff through helpful tips for working with Indigenous peoples.

## GIFTING OF TOBACCO

When meeting with anyone Indigenous who is imparting wisdom or knowledge exchange should be gifted **tobacco** in a **trade cloth tobacco tie** or **tobacco pouch**. Tobacco can be in cigarette form or loose in a tobacco cloth. It is recommended to get **loose organic tobacco** and **fold it in a red trade cloth**. Tobacco is one of the four sacred medicines. It is the most sacred medicine and believed to be the first gift the Creator gave the people. It is used for peace, ceremony and offerings. Tobacco is to be wrapped in trade cloth in one of the four sacred medicine colors (black, red, white or yellow), but traditionally it is to be wrapped **in a red cloth** if available. Offer the tobacco **in your left hand**, thanking the individual. Example of dialogue: “I gift you this tobacco to thank you for your wisdom and knowledge.”

*In Edmonton you can buy loose organic tobacco at Burlington on Whyte Tobacconist (10468 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave) and ceremonial trade cloth at the MacEwan Gift Store (19799 194 Ave Room 6-124).*

## WHEN TO GIFT TOBACCO

Tobacco should be gifted whenever meeting with an elder or knowledge keeper, especially when asking them to participate in an event or when asking a cultural question. The gifting and acceptance of tobacco creates a contract between the two parties, committing to respecting one another. It also symbolizes that the elder or knowledge keeper is agreeing to do what has been asked of them. You would also gift tobacco to any Indigenous person (elder or not) who is sharing traditional knowledge.

## INVITING ELDERS

Typically invitations are done in person but some elders may accept phone calls or emails. When you make a request to an Elder, have tobacco or a gift for them before making the request.

## HOSTING AN ELDER

Always follow up a couple days before an event where an elder has agreed to participate. Be prepared that elders may change their mind- hence why you should follow up a couple days in advance!

- When hosting an elder, ensure that they have proper transportation to and from the event
- Always greet the elder upon arrival and during the event ensure that the elder is taken care of
- Making sure there is food, drinks and helping assist the elder is incredibly important

## HONORARIA

When hosting an elder or knowledge keeper, it is traditional to provide another gift after the exchange of tobacco. This can be food, clothing, blankets or any type of gift. In addition to a small gift, a monetary gift is also recommended. Give what you can, but know that the monetary honoraria is in exchange for the elder or knowledge keeper's assistance.

*If you are unsure of a proper amount for an honorarium, don't be afraid to ask. It is always best to ask than give too little or too much. Typically, elders will ask between \$300-\$500.*

## THE TRC DEFINITION OF RECONCILIATION

“... Reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in this country. For that to happen, there must be awareness of the past, an acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behavior.” [1]

## SOME TIPS ON ENGAGING WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

- Making relationships with local Indigenous communities BEFORE you need something.
- Face-to-face, meaningful relationships and interactions.
- Knowing the local nations of the area you are visiting and how to properly pronounce their names.
- Use plain language.
- Asking questions when you don't understand.
- Seeking knowledge from elders or the local friendship centre.
- Being aware of the diversity amongst First Nations groups- there are 54 different first nations tribes in Canada- all with their own unique customs and traditions!
- Try to refer to each nation by name rather than a generic use of “Native/Aboriginal peoples”.
- Some individuals may identify more with the term Indian or Aboriginal- to be on the safe side, default to Indigenous.
- It is important to not over dress when meeting with Indigenous communities- dress down.
- Keep a buffer time between the end of meetings with Indigenous communities and before next appointments- always give respect that things take time.
- Provide transparent information about projects, progression and information.

- Honour all agreements- especially oral agreements. Record your interactions to ensure that your oral agreements are followed.
- When in doubt, unless otherwise specified by the Individual, use Indigenous as the all- encompassing term. First Nations is also acceptable.
- Part of respect in Indigenous communities is not making eye contact- be aware of this if an Indigenous person isn't making direct eye contact- it is out of respect for you.
- Don't show up empty handed- always try to bring a meeting gift.
- Expect to participate in cultural events and don't be afraid to ask for protocol guidance from the host.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Indigenous Corporate Training: <http://www.ictinc.ca>
- Government of Canada Reconciliation <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca>
- First Nations in Alberta- List of the Nations and which treaty they reside on <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/>
- Government of Canada Indigenous Peoples: [www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/](http://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/)
- Educational Resources: <http://empoweringthespirit.ca/>
- Statistics Canada Indigenous Population: [www150.statcan.gc.ca](http://www150.statcan.gc.ca)
- Truth and Reconciliation commission: [www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca)
- Government of Alberta- Indigenous Relations: <http://indigenous.alberta.ca>

## BAND CONTACTS

### ALEXANDER FIRST NATION

Box 3419 Morinville, AB T8R 1S3  
 PHONE: 780-939-5887 FAX: 780-939-4434  
 WEBSITE: [www.alexanderfn.com](http://www.alexanderfn.com)

### ALEXIS NAKOTA SIOUX NATION

Box 7 Genevis, AB ToE oXo  
 PHONE: 780-967-2225 FAX: 780-967-5484  
 WEBSITE: [www.alexisnakotasioux.com](http://www.alexisnakotasioux.com)

### ENOCH CREE NATION

Box 29 Enoch, AB T7X 3Y3  
 PHONE: 780-470-4505 FAX: 780-470-3380  
 WEBSITE: [www.enochnation.ca](http://www.enochnation.ca)  
 Maskekosak Cultural Program Office:  
 780-470-0359

### ERMINEKIN FIRST NATION

Box 219 Hobbema, AB ToC 1No  
 PHONE: 780-585-3741 FAX: 780-585-2550

WEBSITE: [www.creegallery.com](http://www.creegallery.com)

### KEHEWIN CREE NATION

Box 220 Kehewin, AB ToA 1Co  
 PHONE: 780-826-3333 TOLL FREE: 1-888-826-9255 FAX: 780-826-2355  
 WEBSITE: [www.kehewincrenation.ca](http://www.kehewincrenation.ca)

### LOUIS BULL TRIBE

Box 130 Hobbema, AB ToC 1No  
 PHONE: 780-585-3978  
 TOLL FREE: 1-888-281-7907 FAX: 780-585-3799  
 WEBSITE: [www.louisbulltribe.ca](http://www.louisbulltribe.ca)

### MONTANA FIRST NATION

Box 70 Hobbema, AB ToC 1No  
 PHONE: 780-585-3744 FAX: 780-585-3264  
 WEBSITE: [www.montanafirstnation.com](http://www.montanafirstnation.com)

### **PAPASCHASE CREE NATION SOCIETY**

3359 - 145 Avenue NW Edmonton, AB T5Y 2E9  
PHONE: 587-986-1544  
EMAIL: [c\\_bruneau39@live.com](mailto:c_bruneau39@live.com)

### **PAUL FIRST NATION**

Box 89 Duffield, AB ToE oNo  
PHONE: 780-892-2691 FAX: 780-892-3402  
WEBSITE: [www.paulfirstnation.com](http://www.paulfirstnation.com)

### **SADDLE LAKE CREE NATION**

Box 100 Saddle Lake, AB ToA 1To  
PHONE: 780-726-3829 TOLL FREE: 1-800-396-2167 FAX: 780-726-3788  
WEBSITE: [www.saddlelake.ca](http://www.saddlelake.ca)

### **SAMSON CREE NATION**

Box 159 Hobbema, AB ToC 1No  
PHONE: 780-585-3793  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-661-2579 FAX: 780-585-2700  
WEBSITE: [www.samsoncree.com](http://www.samsoncree.com)

## **COMMUNITY CONTACTS**

### **ALBERTA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRES**

10336 - 121 street Edmonton, AB T5N 1K8  
PHONE: 780-423-3138 FAX: 780-425-6277 EMAIL: [anfca.director@telus.net](mailto:anfca.director@telus.net)  
WEBSITE: [www.anfca.ca](http://www.anfca.ca)

### **ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS**

55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1600 Ottawa, ON K1P 6L5  
PHONE: 613-241-6789 TOLL FREE: 1-866-869-6789 FAX: 613-241-5808  
WEBSITE: [www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca)

### **BENT ARROW TRADITIONAL HEALING SOCIETY**

Parkdale School 11648 – 85 Street Edmonton, AB T5B 3E5 PHONE:  
780-481-3451 FAX: 780-481-3509 EMAIL: [reception@bentarrow.ca](mailto:reception@bentarrow.ca)  
WEBSITE: [www.bentarrow.ca](http://www.bentarrow.ca)

### **THE CANADIAN NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE**

11728-95 Street Edmonton, AB T5G 1L9  
PHONE: 780-761-1900 FAX: 780-760-1900  
EMAIL: [receptioncnfcedmonton@shaw.ca](mailto:receptioncnfcedmonton@shaw.ca)  
WEBSITE: [www.cnfc.ca](http://www.cnfc.ca)

The Canadian Native Friendship Centre (CNFC) helps aboriginal newcomers and the Aboriginal community in Edmonton with referral services, social events and recreational programs.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is the national representative organization of the First Nations in Canada. There are over 630 First Nation's communities in Canada. The AFN Secretariat, is designed to present the views of the various First Nations through their leaders in areas such as: Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, Economic Development, Education, Languages and Literacy, Health, Housing, Social Development, Justice, Taxation, Land Claims, Environment, and a whole array of issues that are of common concern which arise from time to time.

## **GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA, INDIGENOUS RELATIONS**

19th floor, Commerce Place 10155 - 102 Street NW Edmonton, AB T5J 4G8  
PHONE: 780-427-8407 TOLL FREE: 780-310-0000 (from anywhere in Alberta)  
FAX: 780-427-4019  
WEBSITE: [www.indigenous.alberta.ca](http://www.indigenous.alberta.ca)

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations works with Aboriginal communities, the federal government, industry and other stakeholders to promote social and economic opportunities to enhance the quality of life of Aboriginal people in Alberta.

## **INDIGENOUS RELATIONS CITY OF EDMONTON**

Citizen Services P.O. Box 2359 Edmonton, AB  
Phone: 780-944-7602 Fax: 780-577-3525 Email: [Indigenousrelations@edmonton.ca](mailto:Indigenousrelations@edmonton.ca)  
WEBSITE: [www.edmonton.ca/indigenousrelations](http://www.edmonton.ca/indigenousrelations)

## **INDIGENOUS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS**

630 Canada Place, 9700 Jasper Avenue Edmonton, AB T5J 4G2  
PHONE: 780-495-2773 FAX: 780-495-4088  
WEBSITE: [www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca](http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca)

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) supports Aboriginal people (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) and Northerners in their efforts to:

- improve social well-being and economic prosperity;
- develop healthier, more sustainable communities; and
- participate more fully in Canada's political, social and economic development — to the benefit of all Canadians.

INAC is one of the federal government departments responsible for meeting the Government of Canada's obligations and commitments to First Nations, Inuit and Métis, and for fulfilling the federal government's constitutional responsibilities in the North.

## **MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA**

100 Delia Gray Building, 11738 Kingsway Avenue Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5  
PHONE: 780-455-2200 TOLL FREE: 1-800-252-7553 FAX: 780-452-8946  
WEBSITE: [www.albertametis.com](http://www.albertametis.com)

The mandate of the Métis Nation of Alberta is to be a representative voice on behalf of the Métis people in Alberta, provide the Métis people an opportunity to participate in government's policy and decision-making process and, most importantly, promote and facilitate the advancement of Métis people through the pursuit of self-reliance, self-determination and self-management.

**EXPLORE  
EDMONTON**

## ELDER CONTACTS

### COUNCIL OF ELDERS OFFICE

Elizabeth (Betty) Letandre

PHONE: 780-471-2360

EMAIL: [Elizabeth.letandre@ecsd.net](mailto:Elizabeth.letandre@ecsd.net)

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EMAIL: [normaspicer@shaw.ca](mailto:normaspicer@shaw.ca)

Francis Whiskeyjack

PHONE: 780-695-4848

Walter Callingbull (Elders council at Enoch)

PHONE: 780-470-4515

Rocky Morin

PHONE: 780-439-2272