



For the Families of Aboriginal Women Who are
Murdered and Missing

EVENT INFORMATION PACKAGE

2016 Provincial Family Gathering
January 31, 2016 to February 2, 2016
Lheidli T'enneh Territory – Prince George BC

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Open Letter To Families

December 2015

To the families of the murdered and missing Aboriginal women in British Columbia. Please join us for the 2016 Provincial Family Gathering to be held in the territory of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation, Prince George BC from January 31, 2016 to February 2, 2016.

The Province of BC, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, the First Nations Leadership Council (BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, Union of BC Indian Chiefs) Métis Nation BC, the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and Carrier Sekani Child and Family Services (Highway of Tears) are jointly planning and hosting this provincial family gathering in order to provide a safe and supportive place for families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women to gather, and heal together by sharing your stories and strength. The Provincial Family Gathering will allow family members to discuss and identify a path forward to end violence against Aboriginal women and girls.

The Provincial Family Gathering will begin with a Welcome Dinner for the families on January 31, 2016 followed by two days of culturally-based ceremonies, activities and sessions. The Provincial Family Gathering is family-focused and will provide many opportunities to connect with other families from across BC.

The Provincial Family Gathering will also provide families with an opportunity to present a collective voice for issues, concerns and recommendations that will be brought forward to the second National Round Table on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women to be held in Manitoba in early 2016. The Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and representatives from all the co-host partners will be attending the Provincial Family Gathering in person and look forward to meeting and hearing from family members throughout the event.

On behalf of the co-hosts, we want to welcome families from across BC to join us for this gathering and to share in their healing journeys. If you wish to accept our invitation, you will find an RSVP Registration Form and instructions in this Invitation Package.

With Respect,

Honorable John Rustad
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Chief Dominic Frederick
Lheidli T'enneh

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

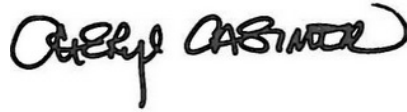
On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT:



Grand Chief Edward John



Robert Phillips



Cheryl Casimer

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS:



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip



Chief Bob Chamberlin



Kukpi7 Judy Wilson

On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:



Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson

On behalf of the METIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



Minister of Métis Women Clara Morin-Dal Col

On behalf of the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women



Chastity Davis, Chair

On behalf of Carrier Sekani Tribal Council



Tribal Chief Terry Teegee

On behalf of Carrier Sekani Family Services



Mary Teegee, Executive Director

Information About the Provincial Family Gathering

2016 Provincial Family Gathering
January 31 to February 2, 2016
Lheidli T'enneh Territory, Prince George BC

- For Families of Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women
- Up to 4 family members per loved one may attend
- Activities for Children and Teens, Child-minding available
- Culturally-based and family-focused
- Welcome Dinner at the Hotel when families arrive January 31, 2016
- Cultural ceremonies each day
- Discussions to provide recommendations to the second National Round Table on Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women, to be held in Manitoba early 2016 and the National Inquiry on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women
- Evening Dinner / Feast on Day 1: February 1, 2016

Register to Attend

To attend, please complete the attached RSVP Registration Form and return it to Marcia Dawson, Event Coordinator, on or before January 8, 2016. We ask that families identify a contact person on the registration form who will be able to speak with us regarding the travel and accommodation needs for your family.

Travel

Travel, meals and accommodation will be paid for up to four (4) family members. Once we receive your RSVP Registration Form, you will be contacted regarding transportation, meals and hotel rooms.

BC Memorial Quilt

For families who wish to participate in this project, a memorial quilt will be created to honor women who have been murdered and or who have gone missing. Each family will be invited to create their own patch in honor of their loved one. Supplies for the patches will be provided, although you are welcome to bring supplies with you to create the patch. After the event, the patches will be assembled into a quilt, with the name of their loved one embroidered on the quilt. More information about the quilt will be provided leading up to the event.



2016 Provincial Family Gathering

Lheidli T'enneh Territory
Prince George Civic Centre
January 31, 2016 – February 2, 2016

TRAVEL DAY and ARRIVAL: January 31, 2016 Welcome Dinner at Hotel

7:00 – 8:00 pm An informal, welcome dinner at the hotel, to allow for families to meet, and to provide information about the Gathering. This is optional for families to attend.

DAY 1 FEB 1, 2016 Prince George Conference Centre, 808 Canada Games Way

6:00 a.m. Various ceremonies (*e.g. brushing, smudge, walk/run/yoga*)

7:00 a.m. Welcome Breakfast and Check In
Presentation: National Quilt and BC Quilt

9:00 a.m. Opening Prayer, Welcome to the Territory (Lheidli T'enneh)
Witness Ceremony and Cultural Ceremony (*various*)

11:00 a.m. Wellness Break

11:30 a.m. Sharing Circle: Getting to Know Each Other (*introductions*)

12:30 p.m. Lunch

2:00 p.m. Keynote Speaker / Family Speaker

3:00 p.m. Wellness Break

3:30 p.m. "Gathering of the Rocks" A Lheidli T'enneh Custom

4:30 – 6:00 Rest in Rooms, Walks, Break

Feb 1 Evening Feast/Dinner: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Entertainment and Activities

2016 Provincial Family Gathering

Lheidli T'enneh Territory
Prince George Civic Centre

January 31, 2016 – February 2, 2016

DAY 2 February 2, 2016 Prince George Conference Centre, 808 Canada Games Way

- 6:00 a.m. Various Ceremonies (*e.g. brushing, smudge, walk/run/yoga*)
- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Strength of Family Cultural Sharing (*songs and drumming*)
Presentation of Moose Hide Campaign
- 9:30 a.m. Breakout Rooms: Highway of Tears Film, Men's/Women's/Youth Circles
Other concurrent sessions/private ceremonies/BC Quilt
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Family Speaker (*strength, resilience and hope*)
- 2:00 p.m. Discussions to provide recommendations to the 2nd National Round
Table and the National Inquiry for MMIW and other concurrent sessions
- 3:30 p.m. Wellness Break
- 4:00 p.m. Closing Ceremonies, Songs and Closing Comments
Information for families re: travel arrangements back home
Closing Prayer

*Please note: This is a draft agenda and is subject to change– a final agenda will be provided at the event.

FAQs

Q. Who is hosting the Gathering?

A. The 2016 Provincial Family Gathering is being hosted by the Joint Partnership Table comprised of The BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), the First Nations Summit (FNS), the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), Metis Nation BC (MNBC) and the BC Government through the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR).

Q. Who is organizing the Gathering?

A. The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and Partner organizations have contracted Marcia Dawson to organize the Provincial Gathering. Partner organizations participating on the planning committee include Lheidli T'enneh, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Carrier Sekani Family Services (Highway of Tears), Minister's Advisory Committee on Aboriginal Women (MACAW), and Ministry of Health.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Q. Who is the Gathering for?

A. The 2016 Provincial Family Gathering is for the family members of Aboriginal women who are murdered or missing in British Columbia

Q. I am not Aboriginal, but I am related to our loved one, can I still attend?

A. Yes, spouses, children and relatives who are not Aboriginal may attend.

Q. How do you determine who is "family" to attend?

A. We are not defining who is family, however, priority will be given to individuals who are biologically related to the loved one. We are being flexible and inclusive therefore please contact us to discuss your situation if you are not certain about your eligibility to attend.

Q. I am not from BC however my loved one was murdered or missing in BC, can I attend?

A. Yes, families of Aboriginal women murdered in BC are included.

Q. I am Aboriginal but my mother was not, she was murdered /missing, can I attend?

A. Yes, Aboriginal families of murdered and missing non-Aboriginal women may attend.

Q. How many family members can attend?

A. Up to four (4) family members per loved one can attend.

Q. We have more than four (4) family members, can we have more than four attend?

A. Only four (4) can attend. For budgetary reasons, we want to ensure that we can support and include families for each loved one and also the facility space of the gathering is a consideration in terms of numbers of people at the centre.

Q. We are an Aboriginal agency who provides support to the families of MMIW may we attend?

A. Only families / relatives of the MMIW may attend the gathering. Where agencies are attending, they have partnered to provide support for the gathering.

Q. We do not live in northern B.C., is this just for families living in the north?

A. No, this gathering is for all families from across British Columbia including the Interior, the Fraser region and Vancouver Island.

Q. Is this just for Aboriginal Women or can Men attend too?

A. Yes, men who are relatives of a murdered and missing Aboriginal woman may attend, we acknowledge fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, sons and other men who are also impacted by the loss of the loved one.

Q. Is this a Highway of Tears event?

A. No, this is a Provincial Gathering, however we are working with various agencies, and coalitions including the CSFS Highway of Tears.

Q. What kind of supports will be available for the families?

A. During the Provincial Family Gathering, several Counselors, Cultural supports, and Mental Health services will be available, as well as Elders, Quiet rooms, private ceremony rooms and volunteers to help anyone who requires assistance. After the Provincial Family Gathering, information about supports available will be provided to participants upon returning to their home communities.

TRAVEL and TRANSPORTATION

Q. Is travel, and accommodation being provided?

- A. Yes, travel, meals and accommodation will be repaid for up to four (4) family members.
- Hotel rooms are booked and will be paid for once registration is verified.
 - Meals provided: January 31 – Welcome Dinner, February 1 breakfast, lunch and and Dinner, February 2 breakfast and lunch. Meals for travel will be reimbursed after the Family Gathering.
 - Transportation Arrangements: Chartered Buses will be available.
 - A copy of Travel reimbursements policies and guidelines will be provided upon request.

MEDIA

Q. Will media be at the event?

A. No, media will not be permitted to attend the Gathering at the Civic Centre. A media room will be set up at a hotel for families who wish to speak to the media

NATIONAL INQUIRY for MURDERED & MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Q. Is this part of the National Inquiry for the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women?

A. No, this is a BC Government and BC Aboriginal Leaders Event that is a separate event .

2016 Provincial Family Gathering (BC)

January 31, 2016 to February 2, 2016

Lheidli T'enneh Territory
Prince George BC

RSVP Registration Form

FINAL DATE TO RSVP IS JANUARY 8, 2016

Instructions: To assist us with our planning and arrangements, please use the following form

1. This is a **printable form**, please print the form then scan and send by e-mail
2. Please e-mail the completed RSVP form to marciadawson@shaw.ca
3. Upon receipt, you will receive an e-mail confirmation
4. For questions about this RSVP form or about the gathering, please contact:
Marcia Dawson, Event Coordinator at 250.590.9190 or marciadawson@shaw.ca

Main Contact Person – 1st Registration

Full Name:	
Telephone Number:	
E-mail address: (required for confirmation)	
Mailing Address:	
Postal Code:	
Heritage: (e.g. Haida, Gitksan, Metis)	
Dietary or Access Needs	

Name of Loved One (Who is Murdered or Missing)

Full Name	
Your relationship to this loved one	

RSVP Registration – Family member #2

Full Name:	
Heritage: (e.g. Haida, Gitksan, Metis)	
Dietary or Access Needs	
Relationship to Loved One	
Age: (please choose)	Elder <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Teen <input type="checkbox"/>

RSVP Registration – Family member #3

Full Name:	
Heritage: (e.g. Haida, Gitksan, Metis)	
Dietary or Access Needs	
Relationship to Loved One	
Age: (please choose)	Elder <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Teen <input type="checkbox"/>

RSVP Registration – family member #4

Full Name:	
Heritage: (e.g. Haida, Gitksan, Metis)	
Dietary or Access Needs	
Relationship to Loved One	
Age: (please choose)	Elder <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Teen <input type="checkbox"/>

1. Do you require hotel accommodation? YES NO
2. Do you require us to make your travel arrangements? YES NO
3. Will you attend the Welcome Dinner on the evening of Jan 31st? YES NO

Questions: please contact Marcia at 250.590.9190 or by e-mail at marciadawson@shaw.ca

RSVP by E-mail Only - Send Completed Forms to:
Marcia Dawson, Event Coordinator
2016 Provincial Family Gathering (BC)
E-mail: marciadawson@shaw.ca

Please RSVP on or before January 8, 2016