

Volume 3 Issue 6

May 2003

B.C. ELDER'S COMMUNICATION CENTER SOCIETY



ELDER'S VOICE

Dear Elders,

We might all have the opportunity to launch the Story Telling phase of your Website (where Elder's speak in their native dialect with the English captioned below). But time to plan is short.

I am applying for funding to have Elders interviewed on video or digital camera at the Gathering, which will then be played on your Website in short (5 minutes) intervals that people world-wide can listen to and hopefully learn from.

If you speaks your native language and have something you would like to retell, recall or teach, please contact me right away. Please keep in mind that it would be beneficial to everyone if we have as many dialects included in this project as possible.

As I will not know about the funding until mid July 2003, interviews will need to be arranged and we'll have to hope for the best. I believe that each speaker will be able to be awarded an honoraria, so if you are interested call the toll free line a.s.a.p. to sign up.

Yours, Donna Stirling

p.s. Please note there are 3 pages of Gathering information inside this issue from the Host website www.eldersgathering2003.com

Only 42 Annual Fees have come in so far out of the 60 that are needed to pay the basic expenses from Dec. 2002 to Nov. 2003, please don't let this Elders' need fall through any cracks.

Special thanks this issue to the following groups for their fees; Moricetown Band Administration, Mount Currie Band Council, Canoe Creek Indian Band, Nadleh Whut'en Band, Nuchatlaht First Nation, Kitkatla Band Council, Soda Creek Band Elders, Tseshaht First Nation and Carrier Sekani Family Services. Thank You To All

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Easy Bakers Corner – Glazed Pear Shortcake – Quick & Tasty

Stir 1 3/4 cups of all purpose flour, 1/2 cup plus 2 Tbsp. of sugar, 1 3/4 tsp. of baking powder and 1/4 tsp. of salt into a medium bowl until blended. Cut in 6 Tbsp. of unsalted butter with a pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse meal. Pour 3/4 cup of milk over the flour mixture. Toss with a fork just until blended. **DO NOT OVERMIX.**

Spoon batter into a greased and floured 8-inch round cake pan. Smooth the top. Arrange **DRAINED** 16 oz. can of sliced Bartlett pears (in syrup) over batter in a circular pattern. Brush with some on the reserved syrup. Sprinkle with cinnamon.

Bake at 400° F until wooden toothpick inserted into the center of the cake is withdrawn clean and the top is golden brown, about 45 minutes. Transfer to wire rack to cool 15 minutes. Brush again with reserve syrup. Invert cake onto plate. Remove pan. Return to upright position on wire rack. Cool until serving time.

Cut in wedges and serve with whip cream or vanilla or peach ice cream.

Handy Tips:

Removing Rust from hard surfaces—[countertops and similar surfaces] make a paste of cream of tartar and lemon juice. Apply the paste and allow it to sit for 15 to 30 minutes. Scrub with a sponge, rise well and dry.

Rust Stains on material—use hot lemon juice, fresh or bottles and leave out in the sun to bleach out. If the fabric is colored do a test area first, OR use cream of tartar & HOT WATER. Soak/ Rinse. To Clean toilet stains easily—just drop in two denture tablets.

What Can you please share?

The following is a short list of Elders suggestions of what might be shared: Your local Newsletters/Upcoming Local Events/Prayers/Poems/Quotes/Comments/Photo's/Storytelling/Drawings/Articles of Interest/Native Songs Lyrics/Wellness Seminars/Obituaries/Birthday Wishes, etc. If you are interested in providing articles, please do, I look forward to hearing from anyone who wants to contribute to the content.

‘PRESERVING THE PAST’

New Elder’s Website: www.bcelders.com

The *First Ever* Elder’s Website “Preserving the Past” is now online (Sept. 2002). Future registration forms, booth forms, maps of the Hosting territory, accommodation information, etc. concerning the Annual Gatherings will all be available on the B.C. Elder’s Communication Center Society’s Web Site at www.bcelders.com as soon as they are made available for each new host community.

Issues of your Elder’s Voice Newsletter are posted on the website each month (though all issues still continue to be mailed out to your Elder’s ‘Contact People’ throughout the province—to ensure that no one is left out because of a lack of access to the internet).

Comments? Please feel free to call in to the Communication Center.

THE CHILD

Once upon a time there was a child ready to be born,

The child asked God, "They tell me you are sending me to earth tomorrow, but how am I going to live there being so small and helpless?"

God replied, "Among the angels, I'll choose one for you. Your angel will be waiting for you and will take care of you."

The child further inquired, "But tell me, here in heaven I don't have to do anything but sing and smile to be happy."

God said, "Your angel will sing for you and will also smile for you every day. And you will feel your angel's love and be very happy."

Again the child asked, "And how am I going to be able to understand when people talk to me if I don't know the language?"

God said, "Your angel will tell you the most beautiful and sweet words you will ever hear, and with much patience and care, your angel will teach you how to speak."

"And what am I going to do when I want to talk to you?"

God said, "Your angel will place your hands together and will teach you how to pray."

"I've heard that on Earth there are bad people. Who will protect me?"

God said, "Your angel will defend you even if it means risking its life."

"But I will always be sad because I will not see you anymore."

God said, "Your angel will always talk to you about me and will teach you the way to come back to me, even though I will always be next to you."

At that moment there was much peace in heaven, but voices from Earth could be heard and the child hurriedly asked,

"God, if I am to leave now, please tell me my angel's name."

Her name is not important. You will simply call her "Grandma".

Food Safety Tips For TRADITIONAL FOOD

For First Nations people, traditional foods are an important part of life. Not only for cultural and social events but also as a nutritious and regular part of their diet. But like all foods, traditional foods also have a risk of causing food poisoning if not handled properly. Beginning in this month's issue, we look at some of these risks and what you can do to make sure the traditional foods you eat not only taste good but are also safe to eat.

Salmonella Poisoning

Salmonella is a bacteria that causes a type of food poisoning called salmonellosis. The symptoms usually start 6 to 48 hours after eating the contaminated food. The symptoms are like a very bad case of the stomach flu and include headaches, diarrhea, fever, vomiting, and cramps. People can be sick from two days to several weeks. The disease can often be much worse in young children and elders.

Certain foods are more likely to contain Salmonella than other foods. For instance, Salmonella are often found in the guts of animals and birds. As such, raw foods from animals and birds are more likely to have Salmonella. Non-traditional foods that can have Salmonella in them include shell eggs, poultry (chicken, turkey, etc.) and raw meat. Traditional foods that can have Salmonella include wild game, wild birds, wild bird eggs, seafood and fish eggs.

There are five things you can do to lower the risk of you and your family getting salmonellosis:

- (1) Keep food clean. When plucking and gutting wild birds (including chickens), be careful not to cut the intestines or stomach. The same is true when cleaning wild game. You want to avoid having poo touch the meat. After cleaning the game or birds, use clean, cold water to wash the meat down well. With bird eggs (including chickens), wash off any bird poo that is on the outside shell. Fish eggs should be washed in cold, clean water before putting into a container.**

- (2) Keep foods cold.** Salmonella will grow in foods that aren't kept cold. As the number of Salmonella goes up in a food, so too does the chance that someone will get food poisoning if they eat that food. With risky foods that may have Salmonella, refrigerate or freeze them as soon as you can. Bird eggs should be refrigerated as soon as you pick them. Never leave risky foods in the sun or at room temperature to warm up.
- (3) Proper cooking.** Proper cooking kills Salmonella. Always cook raw meat well. Cooking well means cooking until you see no pink in the meat and the juices run clear. With fish, cook until the flesh flakes off with a fork. To be extra safe, use a meat thermometer to measure the temperature of the cooking food. With wild birds and game, cook until the inside temperature of the meat is 74°C (165°F) or hotter. Seafood (fish, fish eggs, and shellfish) should be cooked to at least 70°C (158°F) or hotter. Bird eggs should be cooked until the yolk is not runny.
- (4) Don't cross-contaminate.** Anything that touches a risky food that has Salmonella on it will also become contaminated. The same is true for foods that touch dripping juices and blood from animal foods. This includes items like utensils, containers, and cutting boards. If ready to eat foods or already cooked foods later touch these contaminated items, then these foods also become contaminated. As such, after handling or working with risky foods, before you do anything else, always wash contaminated items well with warm, soapy water. Then rinse everything off with warm, clean water. To be extra safe, also rinse these areas with a sanitizing solution. A sanitizing solution can be made by adding 1 teaspoon (5 ml) of bleach to 1 litre (1 quart) of clean water.
- (5) Handwashing.** If you have been touching or working with foods that have Salmonella, then your hands can also be contaminated. Anything you now touch will also become contaminated. After working with risky foods, always wash your hands well before doing anything else. Washing well means more than a quick pass under the tap. Washing well means:
- rubbing together your lathered hands for at least 20 seconds,
 - paying special attention to the fingertips and between the fingers,
 - using a nailbrush to clean under the nails,
 - then rinsing off with warm, clean water.

**Lynn Wilcott is a Food Safety Specialist at the BC Center for Disease Control.
LAW/kg/1139W**

April 15, 2003

Mother's Day is May 11, so I thought it timely and appropriate to give tribute to all mothers throughout our great country of Canada. Happy Mother's Day To All!!

We give tribute to mothers for the qualities we see in families, the inter-locking of parents and children and grandchildren. The goodness and the hardness of old age, which express solidarity of human beings. We see the solid teachings of mothers in every family member. We are together in this from birth to death. Sometimes this togetherness is extremely wearing, but it is all fundamentally good. We learn to bear one another's burdens...the young care for the old, the old care for the young, according to each of their capacities. Mothers have always been there for their children. Only a mother can do all of this.

I really believe our God, creator of all mothers, put His un-conditional love in the hearts of every mother on earth, just so mothers can love the same way He loves each one of us on this earth. Liza Edwards, an Elder told the people on Sunday, "love your mothers, respect and give her honor, she gave you life."

Easter Sunday is near (by the time you read this it will be over) however, I would like to share with you a few of the things we are planning to do here. On Good Friday, there will be a prayer vigil at the Shulus Community Hall, we will have a sunrise service at Nicola Lake with lunch served later. We have two ordained ministers, both of them are from the Okanagan Nation, named Cecilia and Andy Sheena. They travel to other parts of B.C. wherever they are called though their home base is in Merritt. We have not had a sunrise service for a very long time, so we are all very excited about this one as back when we used to have one every year the Pastor was Elroy Pankratz, and we are looking forward to this year's service as Elroy will again be conducting this most special service.

Every Sunday, there is breakfast served at the Shulus Community Hall, the door is open to everyone and we are pleased because our young people are starting to attend again. We encourage them to continue to join in as they are our future leaders, be it in politics, doctors or whatever joy they find between the clouds. Joy, not shame, is our destiny as First Nations' People.

We know, don't we? By a kind of intuition, what joy is? Is it not the ecstasy of gratitude? Not cheerfulness, not humor, not drugged highs, but plain and simple thankfulness, deeply felt, down to the very bones; is this not what joy is? There is no right time for joy. The time our hearts break may be the only time we have for it today. Joy does not repair the break; joy gets in between the splinters.

The truth is that if we refuse to feel joy until every problem of the world is solved, every stomach full, every person housed, all violence is stopped, we will have no joy. Joy in a world that does not work right must be a generous joy. Joy is always, always, in spite of the fact that the whole world is groaning while it waits for its redemption.

Like the theme for the Elders Gathering for this year, Grandmothers and Grandfathers pulling together for our future, our children. We are in this together, we will pull together.

In friendship and respect,
Jeanette McMaster, B.C. Elder's Council, Upper Nicola, and Member of the Okanagan Nation

PRESS RELEASE March 27, 2003

UBCIC Characterizes Provincial Government Forestry Revitalization Legislative Strategy as Economic "Tokenism"

(Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver, March 27, 2003) "The Union of BC Indian Chiefs categorically rejects the Provincial Government's forestry-related legislative reform strategy." Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs was responding to the Ministry of Forests' announcement of British Columbia's Forestry Revitalization Plan.

Chief Phillip commented, "We are absolutely outraged over the fact that the Provincial Government has not even attempted to meet its legally enforceable duty to undertake substantive and meaningful consultations with First Nations prior to 'ramming' through a legislative package that shall lead to the most profound restructuring of the forest industry within the last 50 years."

It has been made absolutely clear by court decisions like Delgamuuk'w, Taku River Tlingit and Haida, that real respect for Aboriginal Title and Rights requires consultation and accommodation as part of all government decisions affecting Aboriginal Title and Rights. The changes announced have overwhelming consequences in the manner in which consultation obligations of the Crown are carried out in terms of the allocation of tenures.

Chief Phillip stated "Let's be clear, First Nations enjoy a legal proprietary ownership in all the timber within the Province of BC. In this regard, we have every right to expect a substantial share of all forestry revenues generated within our traditional territories. The Province of BC so-called Forestry Revitalization legislation offers First Nations a mere share of the 10% of the 20% tenure reallocation under the new forestry legislation. Be advised this 10% allocation must be shared with woodlot operators, value-added operators and community forest interests. In reality, First Nations may look toward a 2% to 3% increase in tenure allocations not the 8% figure being touted by the Provincial Government. We find this offer highly offensive and insulting!"

"Clearly the Provincial Government is desperately seeking economic certainty for third party interests. This legislative reform strategy does not provide certainty. In actual fact, what we will see is more litigation and land-use conflicts from mountain peak to mountain peak and from valley to valley," concluded Chief Phillip.

For more information contact: Chief Stewart Phillip, President - Cell: (250) 490-5314
Established in 1969, the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs is a political organization protecting the Aboriginal Title and Rights of our member communities. We are based in Kamloops and have an office in Vancouver. For further details visit our website at <http://www.ubcic.bc.ca>. You are subscribed to the UBCIC Media List, to unsubscribe click: <mailto:jpc1@ubcic.bc.ca?subject=unsubscribe>.

Information About Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

Reviewed By Michael Smith, MD on Wednesday, April 02, 2003

A New Disease Called Sars The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is investigating a new disease called severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). The disease was first reported among people in Guangdong Province (China), Hanoi (Vietnam), and Hong Kong. It has since spread to other countries. As of April 1, more than 70 cases of SARS had been reported in the United States. This fact sheet describes the disease and important guidelines for preventing the spread of SARS.

Symptoms of SARS In general, SARS begins with a fever greater than 100.4°F [$>38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$]. Other symptoms may include headache, an overall feeling of discomfort, and body aches. Some people also experience mild respiratory symptoms. After 2 to 7 days, SARS patients may develop a dry cough and have trouble breathing.

How SARS Spreads Public health experts think that SARS is spread by close contact between people. SARS is most likely spread when someone sick with the disease coughs droplets into the air and someone else breathes them in. It is possible that SARS also can spread more broadly through the air or from touching objects that have become contaminated.

Who Is at Risk For SARS Cases of SARS continue to be reported mainly among people who have had direct close contact with an infected person, such as those sharing a household with a SARS patient and health care workers who did not use infection control procedures while taking care of a SARS patient. In the United States, there is no indication of community spread at this time. CDC continues to monitor this situation very closely.

What You Should Do to Protect Yourself CDC has issued interim guidelines for patients with suspected SARS in the healthcare setting and in households. These guidelines may change as we learn more about SARS. If you get sick with the symptoms described above and have been in close contact with someone who might have SARS, see your health care provider and follow the guidelines below.

Guidelines: If you think you (or someone in your family) might have SARS, you should:

- Consult a health care provider as soon as possible.
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue when coughing or sneezing. If you have a surgical mask, wear it during close contact with other people. A mask can reduce the number of droplets coughed into the air.

If you have SARS and are being cared for at home, you should:

- Follow the instructions given by your health care provider.
- Limit your activities outside the home during this 10-day period. For example, do not go to work, school, or public areas.

- Wash your hands often and well, especially after you have blown your nose.
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue when you sneeze or cough.
- If possible, wear a surgical mask when around other people in your home. If you can't wear a mask, the members of your household should wear one when they are around you.
- Don't share silverware, towels, or bedding with anyone in your home until these items have been washed with soap and hot water.
- Clean surfaces (counter or tabletops, door knobs, bathroom fixtures, etc.) that have been contaminated by body fluids (sweat, saliva, mucous, or even vomit or urine) from the SARS patient with a household disinfectant used according to the manufacturer's instructions. Wear disposable gloves during all cleaning activities. Throw these out when you are done. Do not reuse them.
- Follow these instructions for 10 days after your fever and respiratory symptoms have gone away.

If you are caring for someone at home who has SARS, you should:

- Be sure that the person with SARS has seen a health care provider and is following instructions for medication and care.
- Be sure that all members of your household are washing their hands frequently with soap and hot water or using alcohol-based hand wash.
- Wear disposable gloves if you have direct contact with body fluids of a SARS patient. However, the wearing of gloves is not a substitute for good hand hygiene. After contact with body fluids of a SARS patient, remove the gloves, throw them out, and wash your hands. Do not wash or reuse the gloves.
- Encourage the person with SARS to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. If possible, the person with SARS should wear a surgical mask during close contact with other people in the home. If the person with SARS cannot wear a surgical mask, other members of the household should wear one when in the room with that person.
- Do not use silverware, towels, bedding, clothing, or other items that have been used by the person with SARS until these items have been washed with soap and hot water.
- Clean surfaces (counter or tabletops, door knobs, bathroom fixtures, etc.) that have been contaminated by body fluids (sweat, saliva, mucous, or even vomit or urine) with a household disinfectant used according to the manufacturer's instructions. Wear disposable gloves during all cleaning activities. Throw these out when done. Do not reuse them.
- Follow these instructions for 10 days after the sick person's fever and respiratory symptoms have gone away.
- If you develop a fever or respiratory symptoms, contact your health care provider immediately and tell him or her that you have had close contact with a SARS patient.

For more information, call the CDC public response hotline at (888) 246-2675 (English), (888) 246-2857 (Español), or (866) 874-2646 (TTY) Published April 2, 2003. Medically reviewed by Michael W. Smith, MD.

Huffing Lawsuit: Lawsuit Targets Stores for 'Huffing' Sales

April 23 2003

— A California group is suing chain stores Lowe's, Target and Home Depot for allegedly selling household products to children who could inhale them to get high.

Huffing, popular among some teens and pre-teens, is the practice of inhaling chemical substances — such as glue, paint or paint thinner — to get high. The National Inhalant Prevention Coalition gets reports of about 100 to 125 deaths a year caused by huffing, but many parents do not realize that common household products can be dangerous to their children.

The JFK Center for Civil Rights has asked a California judge to order the national chain stores to change their business practices and repay the money that came from sales of products to minors that could be used for huffing. The center sent out minors to several stores in suburban Los Angeles to see if they could buy paint thinner.

"The first sentence on the manufacturer's warning is that they contain toluene, which is potentially deadly to these kids," said the JFK center's attorney, Oscar Valencia. "But no stores asked for IDs or took a second look at the kids buying this."

The suit, filed in Superior Court suits in San Bernardino, Calif., on April 11, alleges that the retailers are violating a 1979 California law that forbids selling products that contain toluene to minors. Toluene is a common industrial solvent found in inks, paints, lacquers, resins, cleaners and glues.

Sold, No Questions Asked

Jeff Wynton, executive director of the JFK Center for Civil Rights, said a 15-year-old boy breezed right through the checkouts of several stores.

"He went to Home Depot, Lowe's, and Target stores in three different counties, all suburbs of L.A.," Wynton said. "He got the paint thinner and simply walked up and paid for it. The previous week, we sent in a 10- and 12-year-old who were able to do the same thing at Wal-Mart where the cashier even put happy faces stickers on the cans, almost like saying have a good time."

Stores should have a button on their registers, just as they do for cigarettes, to confirm that they have checked IDs before the purchase of such items is completed, he said.

A Widespread Problem

Valencia said he works with a lot of immigrant parents, and one came in because his child was having drug problems — specifically huffing.

"I had really been unaware of how widespread the problem of huffing is," he said. "Home Depot knows about this law, and has an army of lawyers. I don't know why they don't enforce this law."

Home Depot spokeswoman Kathryn Gallagher told The Associated Press that the chain has procedures to prevent the sale of some of the store's 35,000 products to minors. For instance, spray paints are in a cage, and cashiers who scan those particular items receive a prompt telling them to ask the buyer for identification to prove their age. Lowe's and Target representatives had no immediate comment.

Valencia says that the suit named the top chains to send a message to all retailers.

"They're the market leaders, so going after mom and pop would not have the same effect," he said. "And if they clean up their act, other stores will follow."

Repeated Use Can Cause Brain Damage

Dr. Drew Pinsky, an addiction expert and ABC consultant, said there are two groups of products that children can abuse to get high. One is aerosols, such as spray paint and hairspray. The second is solvents such as gasoline, lighter fluid, nail polish remover, model airplane glue, spot removers or typewriter correction fluid.

Inhalants are not addictive, but people tend to abuse them.

"Even huffing one time can potentially kill," Pinsky said. "For instance, kids have died from huffing in cars when all the oxygen was depleted in the car. Others have died after huffing in a pool and drowning. But repeated use can cause brain damage as well as learning disabilities and memory problems."

Laws to try to prevent huffing do not seem to work, and locking up the products at home is not realistic, he said.

"Educating kids and close parental supervision are the better answers," Pinsky said.

Parents who are worried that their children are huffing should look for the following signs: rashes around the nose and mouth; red, glassy eyes; recurrent upper respiratory problems; passive-aggressive/ irritable behavior; sudden decrease in personal hygiene; intense mood swings. ■

Dear Elders,

I downloaded the following information from the Host's new website www.eldersgathering2003.com, I do not have the Registration Form at this time in a faxable format, but your group's organizer can register you on-line to attend and you can also apply on-line to rent a booth. I will try my best to have a faxable Registration Form from the Event Organizers for all of you who do not have computer access by the June issue. But, please note the Organizers now have a toll-free number to call and perhaps they will have faxable information soon.

Sincerely, Donna Stirling, Coordinator, B.C. Elder's Communication Center Society

27th Annual Aboriginal Elder's Gathering

Within the last 26 years the aboriginal community has hosted its Elder's Gatherings on private and hereditary lands. This year the tradition takes the Gathering to a new era, one of communal and historical importance. The 27th Annual Elder's Gathering has come to a setting unique in its history...an urban environment.



This year's theme "Grandmothers and Grandfathers Pulling Together for our Children" is as important a theme as any, however this August we are afforded the opportunity to let the voice and spirit of the gathering resonate throughout our communities as well as to the ears and hearts of the many who now partake in our Gathering. This is the occasions of occasions to let our hopes and wisdom speak to our youth, our community and show, in beautiful numbers the voice of our people. The Elders will bring the wisdom of their years, the teachings of their experience and will share it with our communities, with the province and with people of all creeds and varied communities that may now attend, this will enlighten and effect the opinions we will carry in our minds and in our consciousness.

According to tradition and protocol a territory elects a King and Queen whom they feel personifies the wisdom, caring, and patience of our nations. Elders are also elected based on the high standards they set to develop the Aboriginal community as a family. This years' Elder's Gathering honors Ken and Margeret Harris.



Message from the Event Organizer

I have been offered the position of a lifetime, one that allows me to discover the related people of my father and the type of environment peace, wisdom, and understanding provide. I feel truly blessed to be trusted to maintain the high standards of the past men and women who have shared my place in this event.

I would like to thank the committees and the many people that are helping to make' The 27th Annual Elder's Gathering' a memorable and inspiring event; one that may be remembered in the hearts of those that have never partaken in prior events. I am positive that the memories we will take from the Elder's Gathering will help in our day-to-day lives and in the way we

appreciate our culture and our culture is appreciated. If the feelings I have drawn from my contact in the community are any indication of the ones to come I look forward to being a participant as well as the organizer.

Sincerely,

Dylan White, Event Organizer

REGISTRATION

This year Elders Gathering and Conference will be held from August 20 - 22, 2003 at Town Centre Stadium in the City of Coquitlam.

The 27th Annual Elders Gathering and Conference will be a true testament to our sense of family, togetherness, and community. Many bands from across British Columbia have offered their support in participating in the Elders Gathering through volunteering their time or attending the event. As a result of growing interest in this event, this year attendance is expected to be over 7000 participants and volunteers.

Prices

55 years and older – free access

54 years and below - \$10.00 per day

12 years and under - \$2.00 per day

Includes:

Access to facilities

Workshops

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner with beverages / per day

To register your attendance for The 27th Annual Aboriginal Elders Gathering and Conference please fill out the [registration form](#) or call (604) 251-5655 or toll free 1-800-997-3870.

[Register Now](#)

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodations for the 27th Annual Aboriginal Elder's Gathering and Conference are available at special rates through two of our hotel sponsors. Our hotel sponsors have reserved some of their suites and rooms for our event. Suites and rooms are available from \$105.00 a night and can accommodate up to 4 people.

Our recommended hotels are on a direct 15 to 20 minute route from the Conference site.

To have access to discount rates from our sponsors you must inform reception at the time of reservation that you would like to book a room under "The Elder's Gathering".

Local accommodations: The Executive Inn and Suites Hotel
405 North Road
Coquitlam, B.C.
(604) 936-9399

The Holiday Inn
631 Lougheed Highway
Coquitlam, B.C.
(604) 931-4433

VENDORS

If you are interested in being a vendor during the 27th Aboriginal Elder's Gathering and Conference, please fill out our vendor application form or call the Elder's Gathering Information Office at (604) 251-5655.

We have six-foot tables with canopies available for vendors. The cost per table is \$150.00 for the weekend. In addition each vendor must donate an item to the Elder's Gathering and Conference that can be raffled off.

We could use everyone's help to make this year's event a memorable one.

VOLUNTEERS

The Aboriginals Elder's Gathering is coming and we need 200 volunteers in the following areas: Food Service, Seating and Ushering, Transportation, Area Setup/Preparation, and Health Care.

Food Service

Help serve food and beverages to our participants during meals.

Seating and Ushering

Meet and organize Elders and other guest on shuttle buses at departure from hotels and on arrival at the Gathering.

Transportation

Drive guest who require transport to and from their hotels (requires appropriate license).

Area Setup/Preparation

Setup tents, tables and canopies at the Elders Gathering and Conference.

Health Care

Provide first aid to participants during the gathering and conference, as it is required.

We could use everyone's help to make this year's event a memorable one.

Please fill out the form or call the Elder's Gathering Information Office at (604) 251-5655 or toll free 1 800 997-3870.

CONTACT

Event Organizer - Dylan White

Telephone: (604) 251-5655

Cell (604) 626-8657

Toll Free: 1-800-997-3870

Fax: (604) 251-1986

Address: c/o Room 003 - 1607 East Hastings
Vancouver, B.C.
V5L 1S7

B.C. ELDER'S COMMUNICATION CENTER SOCIETY

Announcing: Annual B.C. Elder's Art Auction—Spring 2004 Elders: Please forward this to all local First Nation's Artist

This event will be held on the Lower Mainland each year, it will be advertised monthly in the Elder's Voice Newsletter (which is now reaching over 5000 Aboriginal Elders in BC.) and the profits will benefit Aboriginal Elders. The Gala B.C. Elder's Auction will be held live and on-line with the key to this Auction's success being the use of the internet. Artist will be asked to contribute one-year in advance, so that the full advertising potential can be reached via the internet.

The Elder's Website www.bcelders.com will be used to maximize the 'world wide' advertising potential available to us today. There will be a photo posted of each of the donated items, and it will be displayed alongside the Artist's short biography and contact information.

Notification of the Elder's Website address will go out to all galleries, museums, etc. around the world and Corporate Sponsors will be pursued for the Annual Auction, as well as newspapers, magazines and television coverage. First Nation's Artist support many, many fundraising efforts and the internet and the Elder's Voice will be effective ways to acknowledge each Artist's contribution to the Elders and garner more recognition for the artworks the B. C. First Nation's Artist have to offer the world.

The (27th) Annual Aboriginal Elder's Gathering gets nothing in the way of reliable financial support from anyone year after year, and with the Elder's growing population and rising prices, it is proving to be a greater struggle for the Elders just to fundraise to attend their most important cultural event. Each new group that has the honour of Hosting the Gathering also has an incredibly large task set before them, and with the government yet to arrange anything concrete to assist with the necessary fundraising needed to meet the needs of thousands of Elders (during this 3 day event) the planning for the Event is sometimes put in jeopardy.

Profits for this Annual Provincial Elder's Art Auction will be divided equally 4-ways:

1. To assist Elders with travel and accommodations to attend their Annual B.C. Elder's Gathering.
2. To provide a donation to each new Host community to assist with the food costs associated with hosting between 3000 and 7000 Aboriginal Elders and their Support Workers.
3. A "Hardship Trust Fund" will be started for the Elders to turn to in case of a sudden hardship, ex. furnace breaks down or freezer quits in July, etc.
4. One share will be used for office expenses for this communication center operating for the Elders in this province.

Please contact: Donna Stirling, Coordinator Toll free at 1-877-738-7288 or
Email: bcelderscommcenter@telus.net for more information

**B.C. ELDER'S
COMMUNICATION
CENTER SOCIETY**

**1420 C 16th Avenue
Campbell River, B.C.
V9W 2E3**

**Toll-Free: 1-877-738-7288
Phone: 1-250-286-9977
Fax: 1-250-286-4809
Coordinator: Donna Stirling
Website: www.bcelders.com
Email:
bcelderscommcenter@telus.net**

**'ELDER'S VOICE' ISSUES
ARE SENT OUT TO
COMMUNITIES BY THE
1st OF EACH MONTH, IF
YOUR COPY IS NOT
RECEIVED IN A TIMELY
FASHION PLEASE
CALL IN.**

TRADITIONAL HEALING CORNER

First Nations communities have much to offer in the way of traditional healing. If you can provide information of who and what is available in your area, please call in to the office on the toll free line to talk.

LOGO—Our thanks and appreciation go out to Shuswap First Nation's Artist Ivan Christopher for donating our Center's Logo.

PROVERBS:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| Smooth seas do not make skillful sailors. | African |
| A snake deserves no pity. | Yiddish |
| Spread the table and contention will cease. | English |
| There is nothing hidden between Heaven and Earth. | Venezuelan |
| We know the worth of a thing when we have lost it. | French |
| When a thing is done, advise comes too late. | Romanian |
| When spiders unite they can tie down a lion. | Ethiopian |
| When there is no enemy within, the enemies outside cannot hurt you. | African |
| The whisper of a pretty girl can be heard further than the roar of a lion. | Arab |

Don't forget to mail, fax, or call in your Special Birthday!!

Happy! Happy! Birthday To All Elders Born In May!!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

**27th Annual
Aboriginal Elder's Gathering
August 20, 21, 22 2003
Hosted By the Circle of Eagles
Lodge Society
And it will be held at the
Coquitlam Town Centre Stadium
In Coquitlam, B.C.
Contact Name is:
Dylan White, Coordinator
Phone: (604) 874-9610
Fax: (604) 874-3858
Website:
www.eldersgathering2003.com
Toll Free: 1-800-997-3870**

The Jainist Prayer for Peace

Peace and Universal Love is the essence of the Gospel preached by all the Enlightened Ones. The Lord has preached that equanimity is the Dharma.

Forgive do I creatures all, and let all creatures forgive me. Unto all have I amity, and unto none enmity. Know that violence is the root cause of all miseries in the world. Violence, in fact, is the knot of bondage. Do not injure any living being.

This is the eternal, perennial, and unalterable way of spiritual life. A weapon howsoever powerful it may be, can always be superseded by a superior one; but no weapon can, however, be superior to nonviolence and love.

Day of (12) Prayers for World Peace in Assisi, Italy 1986