

IMPORTANT: NOTES ON THE 2024 ELDERS GATHERING for the 2025th

1. Explanation Regarding First Lunch Not Being On-Time at the 2024 Elders Gathering:

There were many reasons why the Day 1 Lunch ran late that were completely out of everyone's control.

We have always been on-time with lunch being from 12 to 1 pm. But this past Elders Gathering the Venue Experienced a Catastrophic Failure of Their Engineering Systems. Something that has never happened to the Venue before.

The Conveyor Belts and Elevators that bring the 2000 meals underground quickly from the West Building's Catering Facility to the East Building stopped working. And critical ovens stopped working as well.

So, all meals had to be pushed individually by hand-carts to our Main Hall. And on top of that the hotboxes that hold the food were then placed too close to the heat sensors which was why the venue had trouble regulating the temperature in our Main Hall which kept it too cold at times. They have put measures in place to make sure that these failures do not happen to anyone again.

2. We had more than a half-dozen emergency incidents occur at the Gathering. We will be having an ambulance standing by on-site during the event from now on and we will be adding to our 3 First Aid Attendants.
3. And the back of all **NAME CARDS** must now have elder's workers cell numbers written on them.
4. There will be no workshops from now on - other than the Naloxone Training Classes and hopefully one other. The workshop rooms were set-up for 40 people per room and those seats simply were not filled.
5. Instead, we will be starting the **Info To-Go** publication that will be in all of your registration bags with all of the valuable information that you would have gotten if there had been time to fit it all in and attend the workshops.
*We are looking into providing other services in these former workshop spaces.
6. **LOST ITEMS:** We need to implore all Group Leaders, and Younger Elders to work together to make sure that all groups/individuals do a quick '**ITEM CHECK**' to make sure that your people have their cell phones, purses, vests, registration bags, regalia, lanyards, etc. from the table and under tables before you move to another location.
7. **SECURITY:** Because of aggressive incidents in 2024 from people off the streets we are having to hire more security for the doors of the Main Hall. Only the first 3 sets of double doors will be open for entering the Main Hall and they will be manned by security personnel who will be checking that each person wanting to enter has their lanyard. Group Leaders/Individuals will be need to make sure that on August 26 – 27 everyone has their lanyards. If you leave them on the bus or in a hotel room you will need to stop and go back and get them.
8. There are **NO Tickets** for the Fashion Show. Only Registered Elders/Individuals/Group Leaders get to watch this.
9. **Illness:** If your elder isn't well please don't bring them to Vancouver. If they become ill while in Vancouver you need to have an emergency plan in place because it could be needed.
10. **TICKETS FOR SERVICES:** These will be **handed out to the elders** on Tuesday, August 26th from 7 am to 2 pm only at Registration downstairs in the lobby. If you miss your number being called for a service Day 1, please check-in at the upstairs lobby desk on Day 2 to see if you can be fit in. No promises, but it is much less busy on Day 2
11. **CHILDREN:** Children are not permitted at the Provincial Elders Gathering. It is the Elders Gathering. If your group has left-over seats, please do not fill them at the last minute with children. The event is typically sold out and all seats are for the elders, their group leaders and drivers and if you send kids, they are using elder's seats.
12. **Seating** – As you know, seating is **ALL assigned**. But we need you to all work at making this run more smoothly. Your assigned seats are your seats. Groups/Individuals need to respect the seating plan as it is first come first serve based on when your group registered/paid.
*When groups move chairs and change the floor plan from the set tables of 10 to 14, 15, 16 people it interferes with the catering floor map for the servers and causes problems.

*And more importantly, people from groups/nations are taking the seats of other elder's/worker's which happened a lot in 2024 and is not fair at all. Your assigned seats are your assigned seats. Part of a Group Leader's job is to ensure that your elder's/helper's chairs are not taken away from them, and that your group doesn't do this to others.