

# GATHERING NEWS

available at [www.bcelders.com](http://www.bcelders.com)

In the Gathering News you will find all of the answers and information that you and your elders will need about the Annual Elders Gathering.

The Elders Voice Newsletter which begun its 26th year with the September 2024 issue will now be for news and other info that is going on in the province and the country.

The Gathering News will strictly be for INFO, Frequently Asked Questions about the Elders Gathering as well as the event forms, updates, and the GATHERING AGENDA.

Please be advised that all travellers need to bring their own wheel chairs and walkers to the VCC as they will not be provided.

## THE 2025 ANNUAL ELDERS GATHERING

DATES: AUGUST 26-27, 2025

LOCATION: The Vancouver Convention Centre, East Building

\*NOTE Aug. 25th is for Group Leaders ONLY and we are asking that as many Group Leaders as possible check-in Monday, so that Day 1 can happen smoothly as you will all have your table numbers already.

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**DO NOT CALL WITH QUESTIONS EMAIL IS FASTER: [bcelders@telus.net](mailto:bcelders@telus.net)**  
**REGISTRATION FORM**

49th Annual Elders Gathering - THEME: "MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER"  
Dates: EVENT August 26-27, 2025 (Early Check-In for GROUP LEADER's only is August 25, 2025)  
Location: Vancouver Convention Centre, East Building

**YOU MUST MAIL THIS FORM with Cheque/Money Order To Be Registered**  
**MAKE PAYABLE TO: BC Elders Communication Center Society, 1415 Weiwaikum Rd., Campbell River, BC, V9W 5W9**  
**[NO Credit Cards AND NO E-Transfers but we will send out our EFT INFORMATION IF REQUESTED]**

**GROUP REGISTRATION and INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM (THERE IS ONLY ONE FORM)**

**\*THERE WILL BE NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AS EVERYTHING IS PREPAID.**

**\*There is NO Early-Bird Registration. We don't get a deal on the venue or the food costs so we cannot give one.**

**REGISTRATION is \$550 PER PERSON - - NO CHILDREN ALLOWED AT THE ELDERS GATHERING**

**\*Seats are for elders, helpers, and drivers only. EVERYONE PAYS THE SAME \$550.**

**REGISTRATION CUT-OFF/CANCELLATION IS JULY 14 at 4 PM. FEES will not be reimbursed after this date.**

**\*REG. FEES cover the cost of 2 lunches and 2 dinners, 4 coffee & tea breaks and the facility rental only for everyone on August 26-27, 2025. We provided all Services for the elders. There will only be one BREAKFAST August 26 on Day 1 - IF WE HAVE A SPONSOR FOR IT. We will announce that next year if we get one.**

**\*All services upstairs are for the elders only i.e. haircuts, nails, mystics, therapeutic touch wellness, healing, etc. are for ELDERS 55 years of age and up. No Helpers or Drivers are permitted unless they are 55 yrs. and up.**

**\*There are no separate tickets to buy for the Fashion Show. The Fashion Show is for Registered People ONLY.**

**\*There will be a \$50 NON-REFUNDABLE administration fee deducted from ALL Registration Fees.**

**\*FIRE: In the event of a local fire evacuation after the July 14, 2025 cut-off/cancellation date we will only be able to reimburse the registration fee (less the \$50 admin. fee) if it is before July 28, 2025. Food will be paid for by then and it is non-refundable from the facility. After this date there can be no refunds.**

**\*Group Leaders: PLEASE DO NOT SEND US A LIST OF YOUR ELDER'S NAMES OR MEDICAL INFO!!!**  
**[You will get blank name tags for your group/individuals and a black sharpie to use and keep].**

**\*Parking/Drop Off/Bus Lot Parking Map Will All Be Sent Out Via Email Before The Event.**

**\*If you have unused seats after the cancellation date, you can list those seats with our office and we will try to resell them for you, but there are no guarantees.**

<b>Group's/Nation's or Individual's Name (This is the name to check-in under at Registration).</b>	
<b>How many Elders/Helpers are you registering?</b>	
<b>Group Leader's Cell or Individual's Emergency Contact Cell? You will write this number on the inside of your elder's name cards.</b>	
<b>Email Address of Group Leader or Individual:</b>	

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

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

**1. 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 then 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. 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.**

**5. 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.**

**6. 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.**

**7. 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.**

**8. 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, 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**

**9. 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.**

**10. 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.**

**ROUGH AGENDA—You will get the completed one in your registration bags at the event.**

**August 25, 2025 – 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm – Early check-in, Lobby of the East Building, Vancouver Convention Centre (This is for Group Leaders with a helper or 2 to carry bags/or individual's checking in).**

**August 25 - 12:00 pm Bidding on the Next Year's Elders Gathering OPENS until 5 Pm August 26, 2025**

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**NOTE: All meals are served with coffee, tea, ice water**

**NOTE: There will be 4 First Aid Attendants present during all hours of your event.**

**August 26 7 am – 11:30 am Check-In opens again in the lobby of the East Building of the VCC.**

**8:30 am Coffee/Tea Break at the back of the Main Hall, unless there is breakfast (7-8:30 am)**

**If there is breakfast Day 1 it will be announced in the Elders Voice months before the event.**

**8:00 am to 12:00 pm services all running upstairs and tickets are first come first serve in the upstairs lobby.**

**8:00 am to 12:00 pm Rest Centre is open**

**August 26 – 9:30 am the Grand Entry begins through the hallway to the Main Hall.**

**The Grand Entry is not done alphabetically. Simply line up with your banner when your group is ready and wait for the Grand Entry to begin. We will have a photographer taking quick pictures of groups as they enter the Main Hall and turn down towards the stage. When you get to the front of the stage split off and make your way to your assigned seats/tables.**

**EMCEE John Henderson welcomes Elders Delegates, Guests and Introduces the 2025 King and Queen**

**10:15 am - 10:45 am Performance by the 2025 Cultural Host (to be determined)**

**10:45 am - 12:00 pm Short Speeches by our 2025 Elders Gathering Sponsors, and 2025 Cultural Host**

**12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Plated 5-star Lunch is Served**

**1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Naloxone Training, Services Upstairs, Drop-in Rooms and the Elders Rest Centre reopens**

**1:00 pm - 2:30 pm OPEN MIC Individual Sign-up List and Group Sign-up List at the Stage.**

**2:30 pm - Coffee/Tea/Pastries/Fresh Fruit Break at the back of the Main Hall**

**3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Elders Dance (First 1/2)**

**5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Plated 5-Star Dinner is Served**

**5:00 pm - BIDDING IS CLOSED and The Host for the Next Year's Elders Gathering is Announced**

**6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Elders Dance (2nd 1/2) continues**

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**August 27 8:00 am the venue opens**

**8:30 am - There is NO Breakfast today, but Coffee/Tea Break is at the back of the Main Hall**

**8:00 am - 12:00 pm Naloxone Training, Services, Drop-in Rooms Open Upstairs plus Rest Centre**

**9:00 am- 10:30 am OPEN MIC/Cultural Performances (incl. any Nation who wants to perform)**

**10:30 am - 12:00 pm Performance by Elvis Impersonator Ronnie Scott**

**12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Plated 5-star Lunch is served**

**2:30 pm - Coffee/Tea/Pastries/Fresh Fruit Break at the back of the Main Hall**

**1:00 pm - 2:30 pm OPEN MIC/Cultural Performances (incl. any Nation who wants to perform)**

**2:30 pm—4:30 pm Fashion Show**

**August 27 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm Dinner**

**5:30 pm to 6:00 pm Performance from the Hoop Dancers**

**6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Performance by the 2025 Cultural Host Nation**

**Followed by the Honouring of the Reigning King and Queen**

**Closing remarks by Elders Gathering Chair, Emcee John Henderson**

## **CULTURAL HOST NATIONS WANTED**

**We are looking for groups interested in submitting their names for the opportunity to be the Cultural Host of future Elders Gatherings.**

**Any submitted names will be used for subsequent years if your group doesn't secure this role the first time...though you will be asked before your name is put back in the hat the following year.**

**We, the BC Elders Communication Center Society, will remain solely financially responsible for the Annual Elders Gathering. You will not be asked to fund the event other than to register and pay the fee for your group like every other group/individual does.**

**The CULTURAL HOST will be responsible for the following:**

- **Providing the Elder King and Queen for the Gathering chosen by your group (\$1000 honourarium each from us at the closing).**
- **Finding an ARTIST from your Nation to do the new logo for the event representing your culture. (Prize \$1500).**
- **You agree to bring your cultural drummers/dancers/singers to the Elders Gathering to perform at the Opening of the event to Usher in Your NATION. And at the Closing of the Elders Gathering to Honour your outgoing King and Queen and wish safe travels to the Elders Delegates.**
- **Having your King and Queen presented with totes of prizes donated by the Craft and Info Vendors at the closing along with a Framed Logo Print to take back home with them as a memento of their reign.**

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## **OPEN MIC— IRIS IS YOUR HOST**

**This was so well received that we are going to concentrate on more of this at the next event. There will be time on the first afternoon, as well as the second morning and afternoon.**

**If your GROUP OR CULTURAL GROUP would like to perform on the dance floor or the stage, please put your name on the list that will be at the stage. An individual will do one song and then they can add their name to the end of the list again if they want to. Cash prizes are for individuals but not for groups.**

## **DEFAULT BIDDER FOR THE ANNUAL ELDERS GATHERING**

In the event that there is no bidder (which has happened) or a submitted bid is evaluated and found to present a hardship for the almost 2000 elders and support people who fundraise and travel to attend the Annual Elders Gathering each year, we stand as the default bidder for the Gathering.

This event's attendance was 30-40 people when it started 49 years ago, but now 2000 plus people need to all fit.

**Who We Are:** The BC Elders Communication Center Society (BCECCS) and we are in our 25<sup>th</sup> year of operation. We do the 24-page monthly Elders Voice Newsletter and the new Gathering News that started last fall. We have the elder's website [www.bcelders.com](http://www.bcelders.com) and we support the BC Elders Council (BCEC) which is under our Society's umbrella. We operate the only elder's provincial office in Canada.

If you would like us to host again, our location of choice will always be the Vancouver Convention Centre.

This venue has the servers we need as well as the cleaners, air conditioning, escalators, elevators, and plenty of washrooms as well as the 23 meeting/service rooms upstairs and the Ballrooms we need for the Rest Centre and the Vendor Centre. And it has what we call our Main Hall that can seat 2000 plus.

### **What is deemed a hardship:**

1. If the venue won't fit 2000 elders/helpers plus volunteers/staff who all deserve to be able to attend.
2. If the town doesn't have enough accommodations which would force elder's groups to have to travel too far in the morning and evening to other towns to their rooms. This adds too many hours to the elder's days.
3. If the facility doesn't have enough seating and the elders are required to sit in hot overflow tents outside thereby missing their event or so they need to sit on cement bleachers that are too hard and difficult for the elders to negotiate.
4. If the facility doesn't have enough washrooms (arenas do not) and the elders have to use porta potties outside often without handwashing available.
5. If the location is remote requiring travelling elder's groups to stay overnight half-way there in towns that cannot accommodate the elder's groups either for rooms or restaurants.
6. If the venue does not have air conditioning so that the elders can deal with the hot temperatures being experienced each year and air conditioning's ability to help filter out the smoke from wildfires as well.
7. If there is not sufficient catering available in a town with food safe approved kitchens and equipment so the elder's health and safety are not put at risk with potential food poisoning (which has happened before).

## **SIGNING UP FOR SERVICES - This will all be done differently from now on.**

**Naloxone Training will be in Sessions of 40 and you will leave with the life-saving overdose kits!**

**SERVICES:** i.e. haircuts, nails, therapeutic touch wellness, healing, mystics, foot checks, etc.

**Will ALL Be First Come First Serve From Now On with numbered tickets.**

There will be tables set-up in the Upstairs Lobby (Meeting Room Level) to hand out numbered tickets for each SERVICE and they will have a white board on their table to let people know what number is currently being served in a particular room. When your number is put on the white board, simply walk up and hand in your ticket who will initial it and send you down to the appropriate room.

**\*\*\*Just like at the hospital when you have to take a ticket and wait for your name to be called.**

**This will solve the problem of the first groups to Check-In for the Gathering taking all of the available spots.**

**Services are for ELDERS ONLY age 55 yrs. and up: Open 8 am to noon and 1 pm to 5 pm on both Tuesday and Wednesday. There will be more services than the ones listed below.**

**Hairdressers—We will have 25 stylists**

**Nails—We are hiring 20**

**Mystics—We will have 10—15**

**Therapeutic Touch Wellness Room—We will have 22-25 in that department.**

**Healers—We hope to have 15**

**Foot Checks—Over 100 professional foot assessments were done in 2023 and that is the goal again.**

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### **BC ELDERS COUNCIL AGM**

**This will be a yearly meeting held at the Elders Gathering. It will be on Day 2 from now at 9 AM. All groups are asked to send a representative with your group's 5 key concerns from your nation/group.**

**Your Executive Director, Wilf Charest will compile these key concerns at the meeting and throughout the year and will communicate these with all groups and to the Federal and Provincial Governments.**

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**ELDER'S REST CENTRE—This room is between our Main Hall and the Vendor Centre in Ballroom C**

**Your Elder's Rest Centre will now have 44 cots (up from 25) since the demand was so high last year.**

**Group Leaders please remember that this is a nap room and as such is for an hour per elder. Please make sure your elders don't get left here for an overly long period as that is not the Rest Centre's purpose.**

**Please remember that this room is not for elders who feel ill as this is not its purpose.**

**And the rest centre is for elders only and it not for support people.**



**Attention: The exact LOT number will not be available from the parking lot company until the month before our event. Watch your emails we will be sending it out to all Group Leaders.**

## Concord Lots—Van/Bus parking

Location: Indigo Lot (Concord), 88 Pacific Blvd., Vancouver, BC

### Entry Lanes:

1. Travelling East on Pacific Blvd., turn right to enter the lot directly from Pacific St.
2. Travelling East on Pacific Blvd., turn right onto Carrall Street, follow the road to the left and turn left into the parking lot South Entrance

Vehicles must register daily at the pay station

Duration —August 25-28, 2025

Parking is valid to 9am the next day and parking will need to be re-purchased daily

Rates: \$25 – Vehicles under 24' AND \$70 – Vehicles 25' and larger

A receipt is printed for your records and there is no need to display it on the dash of your vehicle.

Should you have any questions or concerns, you can contact us at 604.669.7275 or via e-mail at [guest-services.bc@group-indigo.com](mailto:guest-services.bc@group-indigo.com)

## TAXIS

MacLure's Cabs: 604-831-1111 Black top and Checker Cabs: 604-731-1111

Yellow Cab Vancouver: 604-681-1111 Vancouver Taxi: 604-871-1111

**DO NOT CALL WITH QUESTIONS EMAIL IS FASTER TO: bcelders@telus.net**

**49<sup>th</sup> Annual Elders Gathering - THEME: "MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER"**

**VENDOR CENTRE is open August 26-27, 2025, 8 am to 8 pm (Vendor Set-up is 12 pm to 5 pm ONLY Aug. 25)**

**Location: Vancouver Convention Centre, East Building, BALLROOM AB in the MAIN LOBBY**

**YOU MUST MAIL THIS FORM (AND KEEP A COPY FOR YOURSELF) with Cheque/Money Order TO APPLY FOR A BOOTH. You will get booth confirmation back from our office via email.**

**MAKE PAYABLE TO:**

**BC Elders Communication Center Society, 1415 Weiwaikum Rd., Campbell River, BC, V9W 5W9**

**[NO Credit Cards AND NO E-transfers Allowed]**

## **CRAFT VENDOR APPLICATION FORM**

**COMPANY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**F.N./NATION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **On-Site CELL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPES OF CRAFTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Electrical Outlet Needed @ \$175 each?** \_\_\_\_\_

**If Extra Chairs Are Needed, do you need 1 or 2 more?** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: WIFI - This is very expensive at the V.C.C. if you require is contact us and we will send their info on it.**

**Booth Fee is: \$800 and does not include food. [Space is 10' x 10' with an 8' table & 2 chairs]**

**\*There is a water station available in the Vendor Centre by the front door for Vendors and Shoppers.**

**\*There is a Food Court right across the street from the Vancouver Convention Centre.**

- All Vendors are advised to email bcelders@telus.net to make sure there are still booths available.
- The Vendor Booth Registration Fee is payable immediately with this form. THE FORM MUST BE SENT WITH THE PAYMENT. You are not registered with only the form in or with only the payment in - you must do both at once. NO POSTDATED CHEQUES ALLOWED.
- Your cancelled cheque/money order stub will be your proof of payment, no receipts will be sent.
- We were sold out of booths in 2024. And we were sold out of seats for the Elders Gathering itself at almost 2000 attendees.
- Vendor Centre is open to the public, including the Cruise Ships docked right outside our doors.
- There were dozens of vendors who didn't get booths last year. So register and pay a.s.a.p. for a space.

**SET-UP OF BOOTH SPACE AND OPEN HOURS OF BOOTHS: You may use the elevator up from the parkade to.**

- MONDAY SET-UP 12:00 PM TO 5:00 PM, AUGUST 25, 2025. You must be done using the Receiving Dock by 5 pm (no exceptions) as we are paying a Security Guard for those hours only.
- Booths are to be set-up no later than 8:00 am Tuesday morning August 26, 2025 or your booth space will be divided between neighboring vendor for free with no refund to you.
- There will be no re-renting of booth spaces onsite by anyone. All Vendors must be approved by us long before the Elders Gathering.
- **The Vendor Centre will open for you at 7:30 am each day. NO earlier and locked tight at 8 pm.**
- TUESDAY **OPEN For SALES** 8:00 AM TO 8:00 PM.
- WEDNESDAY **OPEN** 8:00 AM TO 8:00 PM (everything must be out of your vendor space by 10 pm).

**RULES and GUIDELINES:**

**\*When you arrive at the VCC please check-in with Judy in the Vendor Centre, by the front door.**

**\*Do not go to the Elders Registration Tables in the lobby. Vendors do not get lanyards.**

**\*Vendors are required to donate 2 items to the event which will be collected at the time of your check-in at the Vendor Centre, these items will be used to honour this year's Elder King and Queen.**

- **Vendors CAN sell raffle tickets throughout the 2 days of the Gathering, but are not permitted to sell 50/50 tickets. RAFFLES ARE ENCOURAGED AS THE ELDERS LOVE THEM.**  
All Raffles must be brought to the stage in the Main Hall to be drawn on AUGUST 27, 2025 by 5 pm. You are responsible for contacting the winner and shipping the prize if you don't connect with them at 5 pm.
- There is NO burning of any kind allowed in the Vendor Centre. And SAGE and other strong-smelling products must be packaged in vacuum sealed packaging so that its scent does not fill the space.
- 1-8' table/2 chairs in a 10'x10' space. Due to fire regulations these tables must remain where they have been placed. And you may not switch booth spaces as they are all numbered and assigned.  
If you do not need your 8' table &/or chairs or need more chairs you must note this on your form.
- Notice of cancellation must be provided by July 14, 2025 via bcelders@telus.net that you have us confirm receipt of. Any cancellations after this date will not be issued a refund no matter what.
- Display racks and small additional tables may be used as long as they don't block other vendors and they stay inside your 10' x 10' space.
- Only 1 booth per vendor as we have double or triple the number of vendors than we booths.

I have read and agree to all the above rules and guidelines:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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**[NO Credit Cards AND NO E-transfers Allowed but our EFT info will be provided if requested and an Invoice]**

**INFORMATION BOOTH APPLICATION FORM**

**Info Booth Fees are: \$2,000 and they do not include food. [Space is 10' x 10' with an 8' table & 2 chairs]**

**CORP./GOV./COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_**

**ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_**

**CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_**

**EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_**

**On-Site CELL: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Electrical Outlet(s) Include the cost with payment @ \$175 each. How many? \_\_\_\_\_**

**If Extra Chairs Are Needed, do you need 1 or 2 more? \_\_\_\_\_**

**WIFI is expensive at the V.C.C. If you need it, email us and we will send their info to you.**

**\*There is a water station available in the Vendor Centre by the front door.**

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- If an **INVOICE** is required, please let us know.
- We were sold out of booths in 2024. And we were sold out of seats for the Elders Gathering itself at almost 2000 attendees.
- The Vendor Centre is open to the public, including the Cruise Ships docked right outside.
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- \* Vendors are required to donate 2 items to the event which will be collected at the time of your check-in at the Vendor Centre, these items will be used to honour this year's Elder King and Queen.
- Vendors CAN sell raffle tickets throughout the 2 days of the Gathering, but are not permitted to sell 50/50 tickets. RAFFLES ARE ENCOURAGED AS THE ELDERS LOVE THEM.  
All Raffles must be brought to the stage in the Main Hall to be drawn on AUGUST 27, 2025 by 5 pm. You are responsible for contacting the winner and shipping the prize if you don't connect with them at 5 pm.
- There is NO burning of any kind allowed in the Vendor Centre. And SAGE and other strong-smelling products must be packaged in vacuum sealed packaging so that its scent does not fill the space.
- 1-8' table/2 chairs in a 10'x10' space. Due to fire regulations these tables must remain where they have been placed. And you may not switch booth spaces as they are all numbered and assigned.  
If you do not need your 8' table &/or chairs or need more chairs you must note this on your form.
- Notice of cancellation must be provided by July 14, 2025 via bcelders@telus.net that you have us confirm receipt of. Any cancellations after this date will not be issued a refund no matter what.
- Display racks and small additional tables may be used as long as they don't block other vendors and they stay inside your 10' x 10' space.
- Only 1 booth per vendor as we have double or triple the number of vendors than we booths.

I have read and agree to all the above rules and guidelines:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## TO: GROUP LEADERS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS—AND INFORMATION

1. **Having Enough Helpers/Chaperones for Your Elders:** Please communicate with all of your Chief and Councils or Board of Directors at home in regards to the safety of your elders and the need to have enough support people per group with them. Some groups are very large and very under supported, which could be frightening if the workers are stretched too thin.
2. **Elders Too Ill To Travel:** Please also be advised that if an elder is too ill to travel then they shouldn't be brought to the Elders Gathering. This has happened and the Elder's Rest Centre is not a care centre it is for napping for an hour only and is not equipped to do the kind of clean-up ill people can cause.
3. **Group Leaders: PLEASE DO NOT SEND US YOUR ELDER'S NAMES or Health Information**  
**INDIVIDUAL NAMES ARE NO LONGER NEEDED ON THE GROUP REGISTRATION FORM:** In past years Elder's names were required which caused huge time delays at Group Check-in when there has been an error in printing or someone's name tag has been misplaced.  
  
Group Leaders will now be given blank name tags and a sharpie to write in their Elder's names, nation and your emergency cell number on the backside of the name card. Group Leaders will just pick up the number of bags your group is registered for and be on their way, making Check-In much faster while not delaying the Grand Entry that starts at 9:30 am on Tuesday. \*Bring Your List of Your Elders/Helpers.
4. **Elders Health Conditions:** Group Leaders are asked to make sure that YOU carry all relevant information about your elder's health with you and that you stay with your elder's group at all times during the event. In the past elders have been left by their workers, and that can't happen again, especially as no one knows your elder's needs better than you do making it crucial that you are there with your group.
5. **FOOD ALLERGIES** need to be addressed and managed via you and your elders, as the risk is way too high to leave in anyone else's hands, especially a foods department who is dealing with thousands of meals.
6. **The Menu—Meals** are served at 7—9 am if we have a breakfast sponsor for Day1, and 12 pm and 5 pm on both days of the event. The Menu will be published the month before in the Elders Voice and sent directly to all Group Leaders so all groups can prepare alternate meal components should your elders not be able to eat what is being catered at the event.
7. **CHILDREN:** All Groups/Nations are advised that children are NOT invited to this event. Not only is there limited space for accommodations each year, this is an Elder's Gathering and it is hard enough for the elder's wheel chairs and walkers to get around sometimes without strollers, etc. in the path or kids taking up seating or eating 5-star meals that are meant for elders.
8. **WEAR YOUR LANYARDS FOR ACCESS TO THE VENUE:** We are planning for approx. \$1 million on food and beverages this year, however ACCESS to meals will be strictly for registered delegates only, i.e. registered elders, support people, drivers not people's family members that want to see them. Unregistered people are not permitted and it is also all assigned seating so there will be no spare chairs to even sit in.

\*The Vendor Centre is open to the public so if family or friends want to pop in to see an elder they can meet up with them in the lobby outside the Vendor Centre. The rest of the venue is for Elders Only.

**9. BANNERS:** Group Leaders are encouraged to have a Banner made for their group. This is the way it was in the past and it makes the ELDERS extremely proud to enter behind their own Banner in the Grand Entry. Don't make the banner extremely long so that it fits and can be stretched out and read easily.

**10. GRAND ENTRY PROCESSION:** The Grand Entry will not be done alphabetically, Groups will simply assemble behind their Banner and go in when their whole group is together. A photographer will be taking quick pictures of each group as you enter and these pictures will once again be on our website for you all to enjoy and copy for your elders.

**11. VOLUNTEERS:** The Venue this year requires all work to be done by the Convention Centre's union staff. We will only have a small number of volunteers but there will be at least 100 staff to serve the elders and support workers their meals.

**12. THE LOGO** for the ELDERS GATHERING will be released in the Elders Voice asap each year.

**13. KING AND QUEEN:** Will be announced as soon as we have a Cultural Host for next year's Gathering. IF that does not happen then our 2 Elder Co-Chairs Allan and Edwina Henderson will step in for that year.

**14. DEFAULT BIDDER**

In the event that there is no bidder on a following year's event, which has happens often, then our group (BCECCS) which has just begun its 26<sup>th</sup> year of operations on Sept. 15, 2024, will step in to host again and it will always be from the Vancouver Convention Centre as it has the servers we need as well as cleaners, air conditioning, elevators and escalators, service rooms, etc. that all the elders deserve.

Though we hosted in 2000 and 2017 in Campbell River, where we run the provincial elder's office from it no longer has the required caterers to insure food safety and services. Nor anywhere near enough accommodations for 2000 elders and support people so that people don't need to drive hours to rooms.

**15. NOTE: Island vs Mainland**

The vast majority of the attendees of the Annual Elders Gathering do not come from Vancouver Island. Most come from in and around the lower mainland, the interior and northern BC. Having the event on Vancouver Island means that the majority of travellers would be all paying for the extra cost of ferries to Victoria and it would add hours on to their already very long travel times.

**16. SEATING IN THE MAIN HALL:**

Seating is in order of your group or individual registration being paid and your registration form being submitted.

Be aware that round tables of 10 will sometimes have individuals or smaller groups sitting at them with your group. Please make them feel welcome at these shared table. Our job is to fill those tables up to fit as many delegates in the Main Hall as we can. We will likely be sold out again so every seat will counts.

The chairs at the tables must stay in place so that staff can reset tables and serve the meals efficiently. No one is allowed to add chairs to tables as it is assigned seating for 10 per table.

**17. AGE for the Elders Gathering: 55 and Up!**

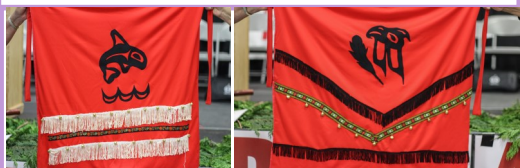
Often called Junior Elders or Elders in Training but really, really, needed to help the older elders on trips.



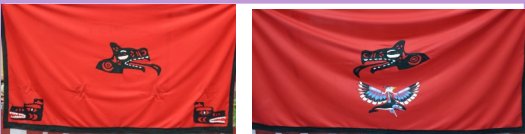
**Official Elders Gathering Totem Pole  
Symbol Carved by Francis Horne**



**King and Queen's Set of Crowns  
Used in the 'Passing of the Crowns  
Ceremony'**



**King and Queen's Traditional  
Cape and Aprons**



Left, Canes from 2018.

All Items below were donated by the BCECCS to replace stolen or lost Elders Gathering Treasures.

Right, Queen's Staff by Max Chickite, WeWaikai Nation, 2019.

King's Staff by Eric Baker, Squamish Nation 2017.

And Two Leather Carry Bags by Susan Paquette 2019.



The years when the BCECCS is the Host we will not be doing this ceremony as we have hosted many times, so we do not have the need.

The 2017 King Allan (Olie) Henderson & Greg Henderson were asked to create this Regalia Treasure Box for the Elders Gathering with its purpose being to both house the Traditional Regalia as well as being used to bring the Donation Ceremony (the 'passing of the blanket') back.

This tradition involves each out-going host having a Donation Ceremony on the last day of the Gathering by passing the Regalia Treasure Box amongst the delegates (instead of a blanket) collecting any donations for the next host which are then presented to them.

**WATER STATIONS:**

There will be water jugs on all of the dining table in the main hall.

As well as water stations with paper cups where you can also refill your water bottles in the Vendor Centre as well as the Upstairs Lobby for the duration of the event.

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**9-8-8: Suicide Crisis Helpline**

If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, call or text 9-8-8. Help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

9-8-8: Suicide Crisis Helpline offers support that is:

- bilingual
- trauma-informed
- culturally appropriate
- available to anyone in Canada

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The Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line  
(1-800-721-0066) is available 24 hours a day for  
anyone experiencing pain or distress as a result of  
their residential school experience.

**SUGGESTIONS:**

Email [bcelders@telus.net](mailto:bcelders@telus.net) if you have concerns or suggestions for your Elders Gathering.  
We look into every suggestion that we are sent and you will get a response back via email.

## **ANNUAL BC ELDERS GATHERING INFO CORNER**

**DATES: THE 2025 ANNUAL ELDERS GATHERING**

**WILL BE AUGUST 26-27, 2025**

**Early Check-In: August 25th from Noon to 5:00 pm**

**For Group Leaders and Individuals ONLY**

**PLACE: The Vancouver Convention Centre, East Building**