



miskanawah
empowerment • strength • family

PRESENTS OUR **20TH** ANNUAL

FRIENDSHIP ROUND DANCE 2026

AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO THE **COMMUNITY PARTNERS,**
DONORS AND SPONSORS FOR SUPPORTING THIS EVENT





Miskanawah (mis-con-a-wa), Cree for “many paths,” is an Indigenous-led charitable organization offering supportive services grounded in cultural traditions and teachings. As its name implies, this approach guides individuals and families in building pathways to and within the community, strengthening their natural supports and engaging in healthier ways of living. Operating in Calgary for over 36 years, Miskanawah offers programs and services in the areas of family support, youth services, clinical and cultural mental health supports, crisis support, housing support, and cultural and ceremonial offerings.

Guided by the traditional teachings of Wahkotiwinn (Cree Natural Law of interconnection and kinship, meaning “everything is related”) our relationships and connections with those we serve are the foundation for the services we provide. Respect and recognition of culture is embedded in the work we do with children, youth, and families.

Our Mission: Guided by Indigenous teachings, Miskanawah offers culturally-based, supportive services to people in the Calgary area as they strengthen their circles of self, family, community, and culture.

Our Vision: Children, youth and families thrive within a culturally-responsive community.



Message from Kirby Redwood (CEO)

Miskanawah's 20th Annual Round Dance was a truly remarkable milestone, and our new home at Tsut'ina Nation Grey Eagle Event Centre created the space needed to honour the growth of this deeply meaningful ceremony. This year's event welcomed over 4500 relatives and reflected something deeper than a celebration—it embodied Wahkotowin; a living expression of community, relationship, and a shared journey.

As Miskanawah continues to host this Round Dance in Mohkinstsis, it has clearly become more than a Miskanawah event. It is a community Round Dance—brought to life through the strength of our relationships with sponsors, partner agencies, donors, and volunteers. Together, with our children, youth and families, we have created a foundation that allows this gathering to thrive and continue to grow in a compelling way.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our Elders, whose guidance, prayers, and leadership continue to ground this gathering in purpose and tradition. Our

gratitude to the drummers and singers, whose gift of song and commitment to traditional protocols guide the Round Dance and carry the spirit of the gathering. We also sincerely appreciate Mayor Farkas and team for their meaningful presence and support. We are also especially grateful for the many artisans who shared their gifts and creativity, enriching the space with culture, expression, and story.

The Round Dance remains a powerful reflection of Wahkotowin—our Cree natural law that teaches us how to live in relationship and kinship. It reminds us that our connections extend beyond one another to include our ancestors, our grandmothers and grandfathers, the Creator, and the spirit within each of us.

This gathering is not just a moment in time—it is part of an ongoing relational journey that we are honoured to walk together with all of you.

On behalf of everyone at Miskanawah, we offer our deepest gratitude.

Hiy Hiy, Kinanaskomitin!

Oldman Rockboy-Brave Eagle





For 20 years, Miskanawah has held an annual Friendship Round Dance — now one of the largest Round Dances in Western Canada.

This gathering is offered as ceremony. It is a space where community comes together to connect, to celebrate, and to be in relationship.

Held during the winter season, the Round Dance brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous relatives from across Treaty 7 and beyond. Through song, drum, and dance, the space becomes one of connection and community.

As **Cree Elder Patrick Daigneault** shares *“I’m very fortunate, both my wife and I, from when we started to now. It has been a beautiful journey as we continue inviting families and friends from all Nations to celebrate through song, dance, connection, and sharing food.”*



CREE ELDER, PATRICK DAIGNEAULT (02:43)
Click or scan any QR code to access the video.

Over **4,500 relatives** filled the Grey Eagle Event Centre on Tsuut’ina Nation, bringing with them a powerful sense of community, connection, and celebration. The energy of the community was felt throughout the evening.

This gathering was made possible through the collective efforts of many. We extend our thanks to our sponsors, singers, drummers, Elders, community partners, vendors, volunteers, and the Round Dance Planning Committee. Each of you played a role in holding this space for the community.

In the spirit of Wāhkōhtowin — living in relationship — this gathering reflects what is possible when people come together in a good way. The connections built here continue beyond this evening, strengthening community and carrying these teachings forward.

With deep gratitude, Miskanawah
extends a sincere thank you to all
who joined us for our **20th Annual
Friendship Round Dance.**



With deep gratitude, we acknowledge the many sponsors and supporters who contributed to the success of this year's round dance. We cannot do this without the support, kinship and generosity of our donors. What was felt that evening speaks to the impact of those contributions. We saw it in the smiles of our children, the laughs of our relatives, and the joy in the faces of our Elders. To everyone who contributed, thank you for walking alongside us and making this gathering possible.



Buffalo

Blackfoot - iinií;

Plains Cree - paskwâw mostos

Thank you to our Buffalo Sponsor,

City of Calgary!



Eagle

Blackfoot - pi'taa;

Plains Cree - mikisiw

Thank you to our Eagle Sponsor,

Government of Alberta
-Indigenous Relations!



A special thanks and acknowledgement to our Building Relatives partners Kindred and Enviros.





Owl

**Blackfoot - sipistoo;
Plains Cree - ōhō**

Thank you to our Owl Sponsors,
Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary (AFCC), Calgary Homeless Foundation, Children's Cottage Society, Inn From The Cold, Luna Child and Youth Advocacy Centre, United Way of Calgary and Area, and YYC Calgary Airport



Turtle

**Blackfoot - sspopii;
Plains Cree - miskinâhk**

Thank you to our Turtle Sponsors

Acera Insurance, Canadian Utilities Ltd (ATCO), Trellis Society, Westburne



Hummingbird

**Blackfoot - naamóisistsii;
Plains Cree - amow-piyêsis**
Thank you to our Hummingbird Sponsors

Burns Memorial Foundation, Creative Cuisine Catering, FWS McMan Calgary, Momentum, Women Building Futures, Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth (USAY)

Thank you for your in-kind contributions:

PSICORP Media, Starbucks Calgary, and Grey Eagle Event Centre



“ Twenty years. Twenty years of drum. Twenty years of hands joined in circle. Twenty years of choosing connection over division.”

Calgary Mayor Jeromy “Pathfinder” Farkas



“

I just wanted to reach out and say hand to heart, thank you so much for the amazing round dance experience. Being a vendor filled my heart with joy

It was so beautiful to be there
You should be proud of your team.
They were all so kind, welcoming,
and helpful.”

Cory Black. (Sikimi Productions - Vendor)

“

For me, Miskanawah’s Round Dance is about celebrating Indigenous culture and what it has to teach us about building community and embracing inclusivity. Each year I experience something a little different, and while the people who join us might change, the spirit and purpose of the Round Dance is strengthened by the relationships between us.”

Attendee



Community Partners

We are grateful to walk alongside the following partners, whose presence and support help strengthen community:

Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary, Children's Cottage, Enviro, Families Matter, First Nations Health Consortium, Hull Services (Braiding the Sweetgrass), Inn From The Cold, Kindred, Luna, Momentum, Planet Youth, Trellis, and Creative Cuisine

Miskanawah is grateful for your involvement and the support your agency provides to our shared community.

Vendors & Artisans

We are honoured to showcase and support local businesses and artisans who shared their work with the community:

Bada Jean, Blue Flower by Eagletail, Bright Swan Creations, Cool Grandma's Quilt, Diamond Willow Youth Market, Di'oni Designs, Emerson's Cree Designs, Handmade & Haida, Kwósel, Let Them Play Apparel, Lilley's Creations, Loretta's Wellness Circle, Mahegun Tails Inc., Midnight Sun Elegance, Moon Beadz, My Inuvialuit Scrunchies, Native Diva Creations, NativezUnited, Oji Creations, Pat's Ribbon Skirts & Crafts, Pepper Pottery, Raven Willow Creations, Shepherd Originals, Sikimi Productions, Sweetgrass Skin Co., The Rez Life, and Three Sisters Soap







Special Acknowledgements

We want to acknowledge Cree Elders, **Patrick and Patricia Daigneault**, for opening the evening with a Pipe Ceremony. We thank Blackfoot Elders, **Reg and Rose Crowshoe**, for the welcoming invocation and welcoming everyone into the circle in a good way. We are grateful to all Elders in attendance for their presence, guidance, and support throughout the night.

We thank those who offered words of welcome and reflection, including **Mayor Jeromy “Pathfinder” Farkas**, **Calgary Stampede First Nations Princess Rae-gan First Rider**, **Calgary Stampede Princess Sarah O’Brien**, and **Niitoyis Tiny Tots Princess Avery Stump**.

We thank our emcees, **Hal Eagletail** and **Daniel Moss Wildman**, for guiding the evening with care and good spirit, as well as our **Stickman, Charlie Goforth**, for his steadfast support throughout the evening.

We also acknowledge the contributions of our special guests — **Drezus Music**, **Northern Prairie Dancers**, and **Tribe Artist Society** — for sharing their gifts and adding to the spirit of this 20th year of celebration.

A special note of appreciation to **Miskanawah’s Round Dance Planning Committee** and **Cultural Leadership Team** for the care and coordination that made this gathering possible. This work was carried with intention — ensuring the ceremony was carried out in a good way, and that cultural and ceremonial practices were respected throughout the evening.

We also thank the team at **Grey Eagle Event Centre** for the way they supported this gathering. You welcomed us in, cared for our people, and helped everything move in a good way. From the meal that was shared to the way the space was prepared, your work made it easy for the gathering to unfold as it needed to. That care was felt by all who came into the circle.



Last but certainly not least, we'd like to express our gratitude to our 50+ volunteers for their time, energy, and commitment to ensuring this event was delivered in a good way. .

Kinanaskomitin (We Thank You)



PSICORP MEDIA (01:54)

Click or scan any QR code to access the video.

Catch a glimpse of the energy and spirit of our 20th Annual Friendship Round Dance in this highlight video, thanks to **PSICORP Media**.



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