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Request for Community Support

Tânsi, Oki, Hello;

**Miskanawah invites you to join us as a Sponsor for our
Fourth Annual Truth and Reconciliation Event: *Bringing Them Home 4-day Sacred Fire***

MISKANAWAH COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Miskanawah (mis-con-a-wa), Cree for “many little roads and 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 35 years, we offer programs and services in the areas of family support, youth services, clinical and cultural mental health supports, housing support, crisis support, and cultural and ceremonial offerings.

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION: BRINGING THEM HOME 4-DAY SACRED FIRE CEREMONY

In honor of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada, Miskanawah will host a 4-day Sacred Fire at our land-based healing location: askiy-pimatsiwin (Cree for 'earth gives life'), beginning on October 1 and ending on October 4, 2026.

Bringing Them Home is a dedicated commemoration gathering to honor and take care of our Elders, the survivors, and the children who never made it home. *Bringing Them Home* recognizes the child within our survivors, who also never made it home, and were disconnected from their home communities, traditional teachings, language, culture, families and way of life.

Bringing Them Home will honor and support intergenerational healing for survivors of residential schools, their families and the children who never made it home, through the following offerings:

- 4-day Sacred Fire Ceremony
- Ceremonial Sweat Lodge
- Prayer Round Dance
- Ceremonial Offerings - Memorial Tipi
- Pipe Ceremony
- Sharing Circle
- Cultural & Ceremonial Gifting
- Traditional Feast

Bringing Them Home will include an invitation to our Elders and survivors within Miskanawah's community network in Calgary and Area. Embodying *Wahkotiwin* (Cree Natural Law of interconnection and kinship), connecting our Elders, survivors and the spirits of those who never made it home to the land and sacred fire is at the heart of this offering.

This commemoration gathering is survivor-driven, planned and supported. Elders and survivors will be consulted for guidance in creating activities that honor the spirit of *Bringing Them Home*.



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Bringing Them Home provides a sacred space for our Elders to replenish their spirits, find solace, and support them in their own healing journey. A special occasion for the Elders, who often place the community's needs before their own, are the recipients of collective care and intentional healing. This becomes a humble and relational process for Miskanawah and our community relatives, to express gratitude and give back, by supporting our Elders and Knowledge Keepers in strengthening their own Home Fires.

BUILDING RELATIVES & COMMUNITY RECONCILIATION

Guided by the traditional teachings embedded within Wahkotiwin (Cree Natural Law of interconnection and kinship), our relationships and connections with those we serve are the foundation for the services we provide. Today, Miskanawah's community and cultural offerings have grown to embody a **Building Relatives strategy**, where Miskanawah's cultural resources, teachings and practices are relied upon by our non-indigenous relatives. Miskanawah has a strong reputation for being collaborators and leading a way that naturally creates ethical space between Indigenous and Western knowledge systems. We understand that true Reconciliation involves learning and engagement by all communities, in an environment that welcomes collaboration, intergenerational knowledge sharing, and relational accountability.

In the spirit of reconciliation, Miskanawah invites our community partners and relatives of all backgrounds to contribute to *Bringing Them Home* by way of **donations in-kind and/or volunteerism**, in an effort to strengthen cultural capacity building within Moh'Kinsstis. Donations-in-kind needed include: **Food, Volunteers, Locally Crafted Gifts and/or Local Talent**. Volunteers will have the opportunity to act as Oskapewis (worthy helper, helper of ceremonies) for our Elders and survivors.

Helpers, witnesses and supporters will be impacted through the principle of reciprocity, bringing forth a collective awareness and healing. **Please consider how your agency and team members can come together to provide the acknowledgement and supports to healing that our Elders gift to community each day.** Donors and supporters will be acknowledged through all event publications.

The far-reaching impact of this offering can be witnessed through Miskanawah's 2025 Reflections Report from our Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community supporters here: https://miskanawah.ca/files/documents/Bringing_Them_Home.pdf

All My Relations,

Kirby Redwood, Lead Oskapewis (CEO)

VOLUNTEER CONTACT AND EVENT INFORMATION

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