

# Elders' Culture Camp

Over the course of five days, 30 distinguished Elders representing various nations, including Treaty 7 and beyond, gathered in the spirit of capacity building and cultural transference. The Elders culture camp took place August 23-27, 2021 in beautiful Kananaskis Country. This event was held in collaboration with the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA), Trellis, and Miskanawah. Guided by the Elders, this gathering was called with the intention to share and organize knowledge, honour inter-nation traditions, and to teach the younger generation of Elders.

## Quote from Dr. Reg Crowshoe,

*"We're at a critical time. We're losing the Indigenous resources. Our Elders are passing on and leaving us with a shortage of human resources to help our young people. So, I think not only do we take the young people and work with them, but we need to teach our own young Elders to become full-fledge Elders and validate it so that they can continue supporting organization." -Dr. Reg Crowshoe, Blackfoot Elder*

The language, teachings and practices of several Indigenous cultures including Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Stoney/Nakoda Sioux, Nehiyaw (Cree), Saulteaux, Anishinaabe, Denesuline, Inuit, and Métis were celebrated. Elders and knowledge keepers shared stories through oral teachings that have been passed down from generations. These stories honor culture while acknowledging and respecting the diversity in ceremony, language, and tradition across nations. Compelling stories and narratives were shared, reflecting the impact of displacement and the harmful historical events that took place in the last century. Elders shared their personal experience of residential schools and the road to truth and reconciliation.



**Participating Elders:** Reg Crowshoe and Rosemary Crowshoe, Shirlee Crowshoe, Evelyn Kelman, Bruce Wolfchild and Anmarie Wolfchild, Clarence Wolf Leg Sr., Herman Many Guns and Brenda Many Guns (North Peigan), John Chief Moon Jr. and Monica Chief Moon, Jackie Bromley, Doreen Healy, Frances Littlelight, Ruth Scalplock, Alice Kaquitts and Donna Kaquitts, Patrick Daigneault and Patricia Daigneault, Vinnia Van Overdyk, Edmee Comstock, Violet March, Valerie Wood, Anne Paulette Kokak, Linda Brass and Darryl Brass Jr., Wallace Alexson and Florence Alexson all joined us in circle.

**"Each day is a unique gift from Creator."**



