



miskanawah
empowerment • strength • family

PRESENTS OUR 18TH ANNUAL



FRIENDSHIP ROUND DANCE 2024

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





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, Miskanawah offer 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 Wahkotiwin (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

At the heart of Miskanawah's 18th annual Round Dance are its Elders, its people, and its partnering agencies. While we continue to call it Miskanawah's Round Dance, the host duties of care have shifted and now rest on the shoulders of its partners, donors, funders, and the

unwavering support of volunteers. It is a community Round Dance, and Miskanawah is so very honoured to assume the role of Lead Oskaypewis (helper of ceremony) at the Round Dance. The evening is an intentional demonstration of Wakhotiwin, a Cree natural law that emphasizes living in relationships. These relationships are not just with each other but also the relationship with the spirits of our grandmothers and grandfathers, the spirit of our environments and, of course, the spirits within each of us.

We hope that this amazing event and ceremony is just the beginning of a long relational journey with each of you. On behalf of everyone at Miskanawah, we say Hiy Hiy Kinanaskomitin!

Oldman Rockboy





For the past **18 years**, Miskanawah has hosted an annual Round Dance and it has since become the largest Round Dance in Southern Alberta! A Round Dance is an Indigenous social gathering that extends a welcoming invitation to everyone in a celebration of friendship, diversity, and inclusivity. Traditionally held during the colder months, this event encourages both our Indigenous and non-Indigenous relatives within Treaty 7 territory and beyond to learn, connect, and engage in an evening of singing, drumming, and dancing.

In the words of Cree Elder, Patrick Daigneault, *“Miskanawah’s Round Dance offers the opportunity to make new friends and re-connect with old friends. This Round Dance is a family-friendly gathering where we can build relatives across all nations. It is a safe space to welcome children, youth, and families to share a meal together, sing, dance, and join in ceremony. With this in mind and heart, it is why Miskanawah extends a welcoming invitation for everyone—of all backgrounds, of all nations—to join us in circle.”*

[Click here for full interview with Cree Elder, Patrick Daigneault](#)



With heartfelt gratitude, Miskanawah extends a huge THANK YOU to everyone who joined us at our 18th Annual Friendship Round Dance! Over **3,500 guests** filled the venue with drumming, singing, dancing, and a vibrant community energy. Special thanks to our sponsors, guest speakers, singers, drummers, community partners, vendors, volunteers, and the Planning Committee for making this event possible! We're grateful for the opportunity to come together and celebrate with you all.





A special note to our 25 sponsors—with immense gratitude and excitement, we share that this event was 100% supported through sponsorship and in-kind contributions by local partners, corporations, and fellow social service agencies. Miskanawah values the opportunity to welcome our relatives of all backgrounds in a communal celebration and blessing ceremony, and



Bear

**Blackfoot - Kiááyo;
Plains Cree - Maskwa**

**Thank you to our Bear Sponsor,
Calgary Foundation!**



Wolf

**Blackfoot - Omahkapi'si;
Plains Cree - Mahihkan**

**Thank you to our Wolf Sponsors,
Children's Cottage Society, Planet
Youth - Partner Calgary/Uniter Way
and Trellis Society.**





we cannot do this without the support, kinship, and generosity of donors such as yourself. Your participation and support is a representation of the spirit of Miskanawah's Annual Friendship Round Dance—bringing friends and partners together in community. Like the beat of the drum, your support will go on to impact so many in immeasurable ways.



Turtle

Blackfoot - Sspopiî;

Plains Cree - Miskinâhk

Thank you to our Turtle Sponsors

ATCO, Centre for Newcomers, and TELUS.



Hummingbird

Blackfoot - Naamóisisttsii;

Plains Cree - Âmow-piyêsis

Thank you to our Hummingbird Sponsors

ARPA, ATB, Calgary Homeless Foundation, Calgary Region Foster & Kinship Association, Innfrom the Cold, Kindred, McMan, Stoney Child and Family Services, Village Ice Cream, Vital Partners Inc., Westburne, and Women Building Futures.

Thank you for your in-kind contributions: Calgary Stampede, Creative Cuisine Catering, Genesis Centre, Momentum, PSICORP Media, Pursuit Collection, and Starbucks Calgary.



We honor, acknowledge and express gratitude to our special guests from **Iceland, USA** and **Washington Tribal Prevention System: NorthStar**, in partnership with Planet Youth Partner Calgary (United Way Calgary and Area), who travelled from Iceland, Vermont, N.E. USA and Washington, D.C. USA to join us in circle and in ceremony, in celebration of building relatives and forming new friendships, near and far.

Planet Youth is a long-term, upstream approach originating in Iceland in 1996, to support environmental change and reduce substance misuse for youth in their community. During the development of the Planet Youth Calgary model, the Indigenous Parallel has been engaging with youth, Elders and community agencies to incorporate Indigenous protocols, processes and youth voice into services for youth.

The NorthStar Project is a coalition of 5 Tribes: *Tulalip, Swinomish, James Town S'klallam Tribe and Lummi Nations*, and are part of the Coast Salish People. The Coast Salish is a group of ethnically and linguistically related Indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast, living in the Canadian province of British Columbia and the U.S. states of Washington and Oregon.

Special thanks to the following guests from the Washington Tribal Prevention System: Danica Brown (Choctaw Nation), Naomi Jacobson (Quileute Tribe), Meenakshi Richardson (Haliwa-Saponi Tribe), Nickolaus Lewis (Lummi Nation), Damien Kamkoff (Lummi Nation), alongside Icelandic and USA Planet Youth officials: Páll Melsted Ríkharrðsson (Iceland Planet Youth Chief Executive Officer) and Robin Katrick (North America Planet Youth Regional Director).



Community Partners

In the spirit of building community, Miskanawah welcomed **18 community partners and social service agencies** to share their resources and program offerings with those in attendance! Thank you to the following agencies for contributing to our Annual Round Dance in a such a meaningful way: Affinity Mentorship Foundation, Alberta Recreation & Parks Association (ARPA), Calgary Fetal Alcohol Network, Calgary Region Foster & Kinship Association, Centre for Sexuality, Children's Cottage Society, Families Matter, Hull Services, Kindred, Luna Centre, Mahegun Tails Inc., Makoyoh'sokoi (Wolf Trail), Momentum, Optimal Direction Ltd., Stoney Nakoda Child & Family Services, Trellis Society, and Women's Centre.

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

Vendors & Artisans

This year, Miskanawah was excited to welcome **19 local vendors and artisans** to our Round Dance: Bright Swan Creations, Colouring It Forward, Cool Grandma's Quilt, Crafted by TKC, Curt Young Music, Dancing Northern Lights, Kihîw (YYC Birth Keepers), Loretta's Wellness Circle, Mahegun Tails Inc., Melanie's Dream Beadwork, Moon Beadz, My Inuvialuit Scrunchies, Native Diva Creations, OG Native Arts, Oji Creations, Shepherd Originals, Sweetgrass Skin Co., The Rez Life, and Urban Quills.

We understand the involvement of local businesses and artisans as an important opportunity to celebrate and showcase the brilliant work within our community. Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with us!





Special Acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge and give thanks to Cree Elders, **Patrick and Patricia Daigneault** for hosting the opening Pipe Ceremony which takes place prior to the Feast being served. Thank you to Blackfoot Elders, **Reg and Rose Crowshoe** from Piikani First Nation for providing the welcoming invocation. A heartfelt thank-you to our Elders for their guidance and teachings.

Thank you for the warm welcome presented by Calgary's 2024 Stampede Princesses, **Brooke Fielding** and First Nations Princess, **Margaret Holloway**.

Thank you to our charismatic employees, Hal Eagletail and **Daniel Wildman** for guiding us through the evening. Thank you to our Stickmen, **Cornell Tootosis** and **Albert Goulet** as well as the circle of local singers and drummers who carried us throughout the evening. We appreciate the opportunity to connect nations through the many song and drum styles across Turtle Island!





A special note of appreciation to **Adrian Goulet**, Director of Mahegun Tails Inc., for supporting the planning and coordination of this event. For several years, Adrian has played an instrumental role in pulling together various elements—from venue planning to the coordination of the emcees, stickmen, singers, and drummers—all of which have contributed to the Miskanawah Friendship Round Dance we see today. We are grateful to Adrian for sharing his gifts of knowledge and expertise in facilitating large cultural events.

Special thanks to our Round Dance caterer, **Denia Baltzer**, Chef and Owner of Creative Cuisine Catering. Her approach of “food as medicine” integrates the culture she grew and learned from with the passion to create beautiful, approachable food. In the early 2000's, Denia moved with her young family to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta. It is there that Denia and her husband began hunting as a way to share her cultural upbringing with their own children by ensuring they grow up with an appreciation for the traditional foods of their heritage. Her passion to feed people led to the opening of Creative Cuisine Catering, which has been serving Central Alberta for over 10 years.





Lastly, it is with immense gratitude that we thank our **80+ volunteers** for their time, energy, and dedication to making this event a booming success!

Hiy Hiy, All Our Relations



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