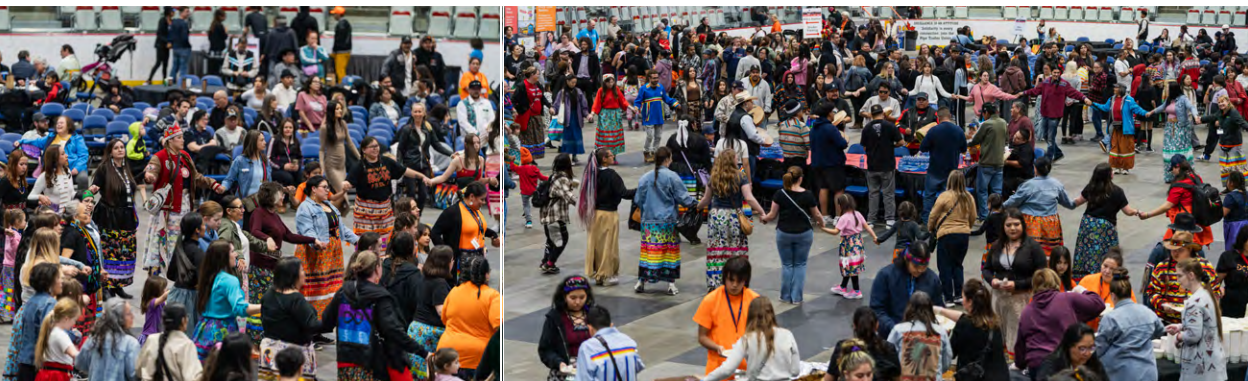




miskanawah  
empowerment • strength • family

PRESENTS OUR 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL



# FRIENDSHIP ROUND DANCE 2025

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 36 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 Redwood

The 19th Annual Miskanawah Round Dance was an incredible success and the new venue of WinSport was just what our event needed to accommodate this growing celebration. Special thanks to the meaningful contributions of our sponsors, supporting agencies, and dedicated volunteers. While Miskanawah continues to take pride in hosting this cherished event within Mohkinstsis, the true heart of the Round Dance lies in the collective efforts of our community partners, donors, and volunteers.

It is because of them that this community celebration continues to thrive and grow.

The Round Dance is not only a celebration of our Indigenous culture, our Elders and people but also a powerful demonstration of Wahko-tiwin, our Cree natural law that emphasizes living in relationship, and kinship. This natural law extends beyond our connections with each other—it also honors the spirits of our grandmothers and grandfathers, the spirit of our creator, and the spirits within each of us.

We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support from our sponsors, partners, and volunteers, as they make this powerful ceremony and event possible. This meaningful gathering is just the beginning of a lasting relational journey with all of you. On behalf of everyone at Miskanawah, we express our gratitude:

Hiy Hiy, Kinanaskomitin!

Oldman Rockboy





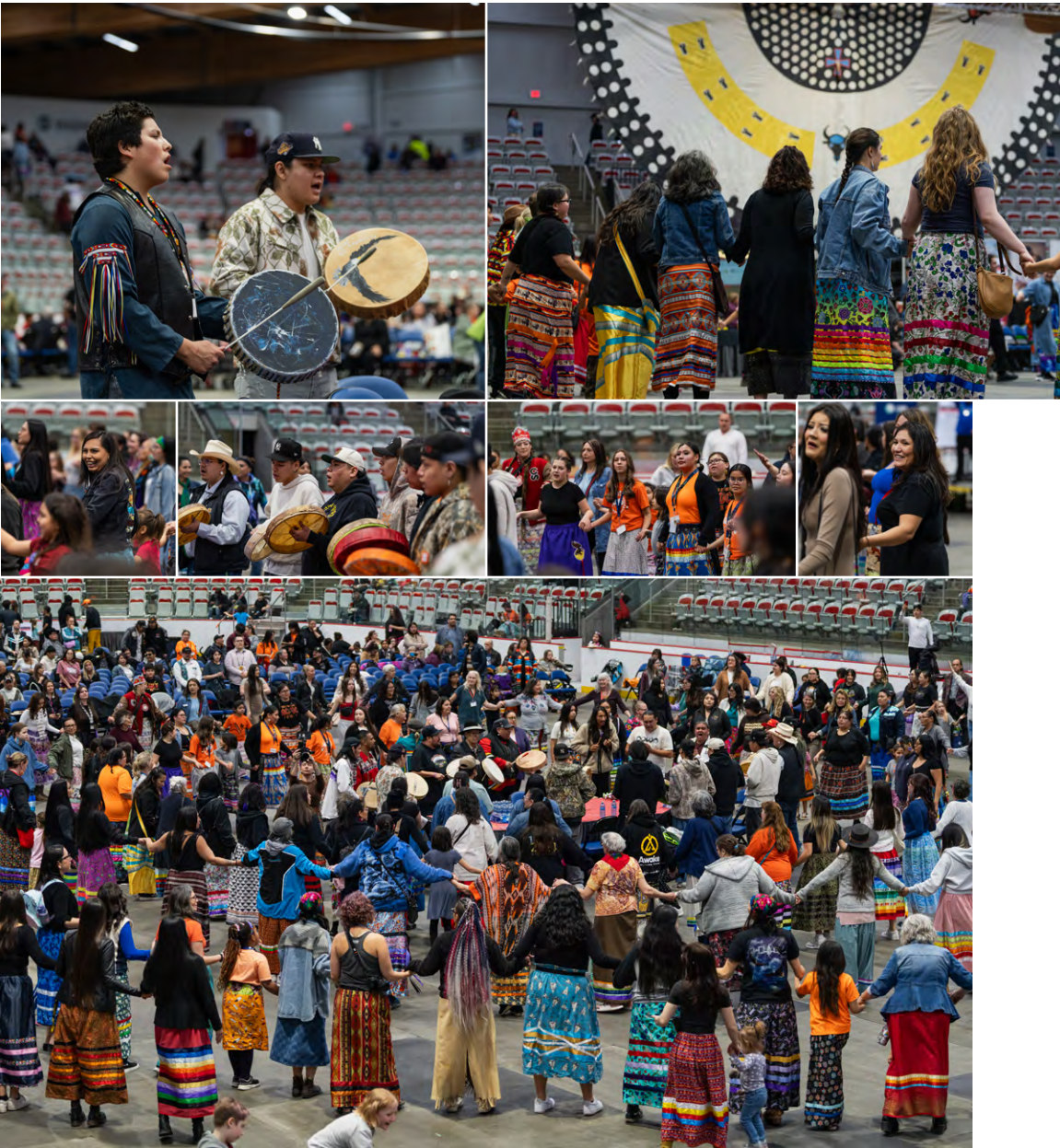
For the past **19 years**, Miskanawah has hosted an annual Friendship Round Dance and it has since become the largest Round Dance in Western Canada! A Round Dance is an Indigenous social gathering that extends a welcoming invitation to everyone in a celebration of friendship, diversity, and inclusivity. 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 19th Annual Friendship Round Dance! **Over 2,700 guests** filled WinSport event centre with drumming, singing, dancing, and a vibrant community energy. Special thanks to our sponsors, singers, drummers, community partners, vendors, volunteers, and the Round Dance Planning Committee for making this event possible! In the spirit of Wahkotiwini (Cree for "living in relationship"), we are grateful for the opportunity to come together and celebrate connection and friendship with all our Relatives.





A special note to our **22 sponsors**—with immense gratitude and excitement, we share that the majority of the event was 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



**Thunderbird**

**Blackfoot - Ksistsikoom;  
Plains Cree - Piyêsiw**

**Thank you to our Thunderbird Sponsor,**

Government of Alberta -  
Indigenous Relations!



**Wolf**

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

**Thank you to our Wolf Sponsors,**  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Calgary and Area, Children's Cottage Society, Enviros, and Luna Child and Youth Advocacy Centre.





blessing ceremony, and we cannot do this without the support, kinship, and generosity of our donors. 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 - Sspopii;  
Plains Cree - Miskinâhk**

**Thank you to our Turtle Sponsors**  
Acera Insurance, ATCO, Calgary Homeless Foundation, and Trellis.



**Hummingbird**

**Blackfoot - Naamósisstsi;  
Plains Cree - Âmow-piyêsis**

**Thank you to our Hummingbird Sponsors**  
Burns Memorial Fund, Creative Cuisine Catering, Kindred, McMan Youth, Family and Community Services Association, Momentum, Rotary Club of Calgary Heritage Park, and United Way of Calgary and Area.

**Thank you for your in-kind contributions:** Bianca Amor's, Canadian Distributor Inc., Creative Cuisine Catering, PSICORP Media, Starbucks Calgary, Village Ice Cream, and WinSport.

## Community Impact

“My time here today was really about **immersing myself into the community** and feeling very **accepted and welcomed**, and just having that opportunity to be part of something bigger was really amazing.”  
*Al Chapman – Alberta Mentoring Partnership*

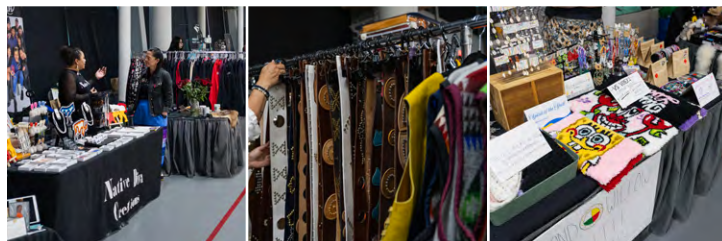
“Our experience tonight has actually been tremendous. I think being able to **engage with the community** has been really positive, to be able to let them know that we are there for them in instances where they need us or **need to be aware of us.**”  
*Matthew Hayhurst – Luna Child and Youth Advocacy Centre*

“There's been so many families coming out, people excited to gather. It's amazing because it's quite a **staple for community**. People dedicate their day to this day. They make sure they bring their kids. **You get generations that come** and having artisans here is an amazing added value.”  
*Melrene Saloy – Native Diva Creations*

“This is great for **bringing urban Indigenous families together** because there's such a disconnect when a lot of these families are living in the city. So this helps them get **reconnected with that culture**, helps them, you know, feel part of a whole like a community. And it helps with getting reconnected, it helps them again **rebuild that cultural acceptance**, that **pride of who they are** and **where they came from**. And then also, you have the non-indigenous population that comes here. You know what they **start learning** about our **culture**, and **the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation...** that goes miles. This is ethical space for the non-indigenous people to learn about our culture. Meaning, it's a safe space for them without them being judged at all. So, they feel like they actually belong with our people as well.”  
*Peter Daniels – Community Member and Elder, Hull Services*



**Audio Interviews (FULL VERSION) (04:37)**  
Click or scan any QR code to access the audio.







## Community Partners

In the spirit of building community, Miskanawah welcomed **15 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:

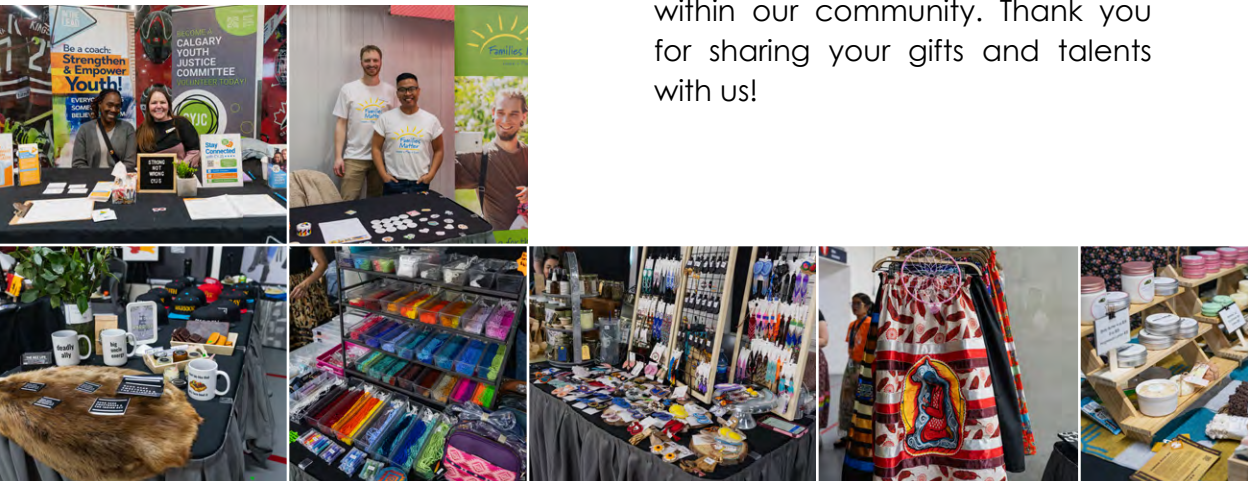
**ACT Alberta, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Calgary Youth Justice Society, Children's Cottage, Enviros, Families Matter, Hull Services (Braiding the Sweetgrass), Kindred, Luna Centre, McMan, Momentum, Prospect Human Services, Sunrise Healing Lodge, Trellis, and Vibrant Communities Calgary.**

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 **28 local vendors and artisans** to our Round Dance: **Aboriginal Design Wear, Blue Flower by Eagletail, Bright Swan Creations, Buffalo Spirit Beads & Gifts, Cool Grandma's Quilts, Dancing Northern Lights, Diamond Willow Youth Market, Eaglefeather Entertainment, Emerson's Cree Designs, Inuit Scrunchies, J&J's Jewelry Boutique, Janine's Deadle Cree-ations, Kwosél, Let Them Play Apparel, Lilley's Creations, Loretta's Wellness Circle, Melanie's Dream Beadwork, Nahanni Art, Native Diva Creations, NativezUnited, Never Scared Studios, Oji Creations, Pat's Ribbon Skirts & Crafts, Rez Life, Sikimi Productions, Sweetgrass Skin Co., Three Sisters Soap, and YYC Birthkeepers.**

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

### 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 all our Elders in attendance for their guidance and teachings.

Thank you for the warm welcome presented by **2025 Calgary Stampede First Nations Princess, Pacey Strangling Wolf**.

Thank you to our charismatic emcees, **Hal Eagletail** and **Daniel Moss Wildman** for guiding us through the evening. Thank you to our Stickmen, **Charlie Goforth** 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 **Miskanawah's Round Dance Planning Committee** and **Cultural Leadership Team** for supporting the planning and coordination of the event, honoring the ceremonial and cultural protocols surrounding Miskanawah's Round Dance tradition. This year, Miskanawah welcomed community partners **ARPA**, **Calgary Homeless Foundation**, **Momentum** and **Trellis** to join the Planning Committee, demonstrating the Round Dance is a community-driven and supported event.

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 away 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 **100+ volunteers** from community for their time, energy, and dedication to making this event a booming success! We could not deliver an event of this scale and impact without the support of our volunteers.

## Kinanaskomitin (We Thank You)

Catch a glimpse of the energy and spirit of our 19th Annual Friendship Round Dance in these two highlight videos, thanks to **USAY/Good Medicine** and **PSYCORP Media**. Experience the heartbeat of community, the joy of gathering, and the power of **nikamo** — to sing and celebrate together.



**USAY Blackfoot Language Journal (01:55)**  
Click or scan any QR code to access the video.



**PSYCORP MEDIA (01:54)**  
Click or scan any QR code to access the video.



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