

“Calling Them Home” Ceremony



Thank you, United Way!

We at Miskanawah would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the United Way of Calgary and Area for supporting the recent “Calling Them Home” Ceremony that took place on June 4, 2021.

Together in Ceremony

The news of the bodies of 215 Indigenous children found at the former residential school in Kamloops, the community of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, is a devastating and heartbreaking discovery. This is a reminder of the trauma inflicted by settlers and colonial systems upon Indigenous children, families, and communities.

The recent announcement and continued discoveries across Canada have brought up a host of emotions for our Elders, and ceremony offers a safe space to validate these feelings and to connect with others who are grieving also. The ceremony that took place on June 4th provided an important opportunity for the Elders to gather and connect with one another, many seeing each other for the first time since the onset of the pandemic.



Patricia & Patrick Daigneault, Reg & Rose Crowshoe, Ruth Scalplock, and Violet March with granddaughter, Olivia.



Prayers and Offerings

Elder Patrick Daigneault led Miskanawah and the United Way in a “Calling Them Home” Ceremony. In this Cree Ceremony, attendees tied multi-colour prayer cloth to 13 teepee poles. Once the teepee poles were raised, a 14th teepee pole tied with orange cloth was then added to honour and acknowledge the children. The beautiful, ‘dancing’ teepee of cloth and ribbon reflects the individual prayers of everyone in attendance and the offerings carried forward for those who join us in spirit.

Four ceremonies took place throughout the day:
(1) Teepee Raising Ceremony, (2) White Buffalo Pipe Ceremony, (3) Sweat Lodge Ceremony, and (4) Traditional Feast, with eight Elders in attendance:
Reg and Rose Crowshoe, Patrick and Patricia Daigneault, Ruth Scalplock, Eileen Black, Violet March, and Blair Thomas.



Hand to Heart

We would like to reiterate our appreciation to the United Way of Calgary and Area for their prompt initiative and response following the devastating news released on May 27, 2021.

Thank you for prioritizing the support and needs of our Elders and residential school survivors during this time.

All our relations,
Miskanawah



United Way
Calgary and Area



miskanawah
empowerment • strength • family