

MEDIA ADVISORY and PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Sharing Indigenous Knowledge on Survival in Times of Climate Change

ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS ON BEHALF OF MANITOBA ELDERS AND KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS INVITE PUBLIC AND MEDIA TO TURTLE LODGE

Learning about Indigenous laws and worldviews in “our environments”

WINNIPEG, MB – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016

*“The Earth has her own laws, that we are all bound by, reflected in the Great Binding Law and the Seven Sacred Teachings. The way we protect the Earth is by following her laws. The role of the Elders is to share the knowledge of the Earth’s laws and teachings. When we follow her laws, she herself begins to teach and guide us toward a life filled with peace, unity and abundance.” **Elder Dave Courchene***

Invitation to The Turtle Lodge (Anishnabe Mikinack Kinamakamik),

Sagkeeng First Nation – Friday, November 18, 2016, 9:30 am to 4:15 pm

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) is working directly with a group of highly respected Elders and Traditional Knowledge Holders (ETKH) as part of their activities relating to the Federal reviews of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, the Navigation Protection Act, the Fisheries Act and the modernization process for the National Energy Board (NEB) which are currently underway.

Canadians have an opportunity to help shape a new environmental protection law that will serve us for the next generation. With pipelines and climate change dominating our national dialogue, the worldview and expertise of Indigenous voices is critical in understanding a healthy relationship to the land, water, air and elements of life that we are part of.

On November 16 and 17, a federal panel will be in Winnipeg to gather the views of Manitobans. The visiting panel members have been invited to participate in this unprecedented day of learning on Friday, November 18 at Turtle Lodge. Minister Eileen Clarke, other Manitoba government officials, and numerous senior federal policy-makers..

“Our Elders and Traditional Knowledge Holders are the true experts and leaders of our Nations. Their knowledge helps in better understanding identities, worldviews and relationships between all living beings, including the environment,” said AMC **Grand Chief Derek Nepinak**. “The purpose of the Gathering is to begin a series of conversations about Indigenous worldviews and laws, our sacred responsibilities towards the environment and charting a path towards meaningful reconciliation as called for in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report.”

The Elders and Traditional Knowledge Holders include:

Florence Paynter (Sandy Bay First Nation, Treaty 1)
Mary Maytwayashing (Lake Manitoba First Nation, Treaty 2)
Harry Bone (Keesekoowenin Ojibway Anishinaabe, Treaty 2)
Dave Courchene Jr. (Sagkeeng First Nation, Treaty 1 and Treaty 3)
D’Arcy Linklater (Nisichawayasihk Nehethowak, Treaty 5)

Henry Skywater (Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation)
Wally Swain (Keeseekoowenin Ojibway Nation, Treaty 2);
Dennis White Bird (Rolling River First Nation, Treaty 4).

The Turtle Lodge is situated in Sagkeeng First Nation, one hour outside Winnipeg. The Turtle Lodge “is a place for sharing our universal and ancient knowledge, for reconnecting ourselves to the Earth and Nature, and also, a place for sharing among people of all races and nations.” Elder Dave Courchene Jr. founded the Lodge in 2002. The Turtle Lodge has since earned an international reputation as a place of learning, healing and sharing for all people, and has been used by many to further their understandings including: Federal Court judges, international scientists, and United Nations delegates and Special Rapporteurs.

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**The Public Interest Law Centre is a branch of Legal Aid Manitoba working in partnership with the Assembly Manitoba Chiefs and the Elders and Traditional Knowledge Holders.*