Gathering of Traditional Knowledge Keepers and Scientists

Turtle Lodge, Sagkeeng, MB
September 9-12\textsuperscript{th}, 2017

On September 9-12th, invited Traditional Knowledge Keepers and Scientists will gather at the Turtle Lodge for 4 days of knowledge exchange following traditional protocols. Panelists will speak in a series of roundtable discussions to share diverse ways of knowing and knowledge on cultural and environmental issues.

The gathering will be co-facilitated by Dave Courchene, as Traditional Knowledge Keeper Chair and David Suzuki, as Scientist Chair, and supported by Scientia Chair Miles Richardson.

The message and call to action born in this meeting will inspire a national and international dialogue on cultural and environmental stewardship, based on Indigenous values and scientific expertise and partnerships. This gathering will help offer guidance from a ceremonial perspective to put a spring conference on traditional knowledge and science, Scientia, in a ceremonial context.

This gathering builds upon the Onjisay Aki Calls to Action on Climate, which were created at the Onjisay Aki International Climate Summit held at the Turtle Lodge in June. In particular, Call to Action #10 highlights the importance of building alliances between keepers of both Indigenous knowledge and scientific knowledge, in a way that equally values their respective contributions to understanding the challenges and opportunities of our time.

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**Agenda**

**Day One – Saturday September 9, 2017**

4:00 pm  
**Lighting of the Sacred Fire**

*Following Indigenous tradition and protocol, the Sacred Fire will be lit.*

4:30 pm  
**Introduction into the World of the Indigenous**

*Welcome and Introduction by Elder Dave Courchene, Traditional Knowledge Keeper Chair and Founder of Turtle Lodge.*

**Lifting the Grandfather Pipe**

*This special Pipe was recently commission by Elders of the First Peoples from the four directions in this land. All bundle carriers are invited to bring their sacred bundles and Pipes to this ceremony.*

**Water Ceremony**

*Led by Grandmother Florence Paynter with Water Song by Mary Maytwayashing.*

6 pm  
**Traditional Feast**
A Traditional Feast will be shared with all those gathered.

7 pm

Greetings from Scientist Chair David Suzuki and Scientia Chair Miles Richardson

Adoption Ceremony for Scientists

Led by Elder Morris Little Wolf, Blackfoot (Piikani) Nation and other Elders from across the land, Scientists will be invited to be adopted into the First Nations through an ancient and sacred ceremony of making family.

Seven Sacred Teachings

Elder Dave Courchene, Anishinabe Nation, will share an understanding of the Seven Sacred Teachings, universal values of conduct of the First Peoples.

Bear Dance Ceremony

Sacred Bear Dancers and other dancers from the St’at’imc Nation in BC will explain and conduct a special ceremony. Led by Chief Darrell Bob, Xaxli’p Community (St’at’imc Nation).

Baille de Condor

Dance of the Condor by Inka Antaurko, Inka Amauta from Tawantinsuyo (Peru)

Sacred Fire

We will return to the Sacred Fire to make offerings of gratitude.

9 pm

Finish for the Evening

Day Two – Sunday September 10, 2017

9 am

Drum Song

The Red Shadow Singers youth drum group will sing an ancient ceremonial song to open the discussions.

Opening Remarks

Gathering Chairs Dave Courchene, David Suzuki and Miles Richardson make opening remarks.

Presentations by Traditional Knowledge Keepers and Scientists (10 minutes per presentation; Speakers will have the opportunity to speak more than once during the gathering.)

Stephen Kakfwi, Former President of the Dene Nation and Premier of NWT

Dr. Megan Bailey, Dalhousie University

Florence Paynter, Sandy Bay First Nation (Anishinabe Nation)

Dr. Ian Mauro, University of Winnipeg
Chief Darrell Bob, Xaxli’p Community (St’at’imc Nation)

Dr. Patricia Sellers, University of North Carolina

AJ Felix, Sturgeon Lake First Nation (Cree Nation)

Chief Jack Caesar, Ross River Dene Nation

Hanne Strong, Manitou Institute

12:00 pm  Lunch

1:00 pm  Presentations by Traditional Knowledge Keepers and Scientists resume

Dr. David Suzuki

Dr. Nancy Turner, University of Victoria

Miles Richardson, Haida Gwaii (Haida Nation)

Morris Little Wolf, Blackfoot (Piikani) Nation

Pauline Gerrard, International Institute for Sustainable Development

Harry Bone, Keeseekwewenin First Nation (Anishinabe Nation)

Dr. Heidi Swanson, University of Waterloo

Dr. Gleb Raygorodetsky, Government of Alberta

Betty Ann Little Wolf, Blackfoot (Piikani) Nation

Vince Palace, International Institute for Sustainable Development

Dave Courchene, Sagkeeng First Nation (Anishinabe Nation)

5 pm  Drum Song

Evening Break  Return to hotel.

Day 3 – Monday September 11, 2017

9 am  Drum Song

To open discussions.

Continuation of Presentations and Roundtable Discussion with Traditional Knowledge Keepers and Scientists

Discussion open to all participants and will follow a speakers list.

12:00 pm  Lunch
1 pm    Roundtable Discussion with Traditional Knowledge Keepers and Scientists continues

How can we build sustainable partnerships between Knowledge Keepers and Scientists?

5 pm    Drum Song

Evening Break

Return to hotel.

Day Four – September 12, 2017

9 am    Drum Song

To open discussions.

Summary Discussion

Defined actions and supporting SCIENTIA - How do we work together?

Closing Remarks

Gathering Chairs Dave Courchene, David Suzuki and Miles Richardson make closing remarks.

12 pm   Traditional Feast

1 pm    Depart for Sacred Site of Manitou Api (1 ½ hour drive, located within Manitoba’s Whiteshell Provincial Park at Bannock Point).

Pilgrimage and offerings made at Manitou Api petroform site.

4:30 pm  Depart for home