

# NATIONAL ELDERS OF TURTLE LODGE MAKE STATEMENT ABOUT CEREMONY



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On May 7, Indigenous Elders from all over the country led a collective Pipe ceremony across the Nations, showing solidarity and unity in our strong faith and belief in the Spirit, and offering our leadership by following in the footsteps of our ancestors with this defined act.

Our actions always begin with ceremony, as we believe in the power of the Pipe. Lifting the Pipes, lighting the sacred fires, singing our traditional songs, and smudging and praying together is how we receive further instructions, as we move forward in offering our guidance to the Nations.

Based on guidance we have been receiving through our ceremonies and through our discussions, speaking in unity as members of the Anishinaabe, Ininiwak (Cree), Dakota, Mi'kmaq, Piikani (Blackfoot), St'at'imc, and Tia-o-qui-aht and Dene Nations, we make a call to the People to:

- Continue to lift our Pipes and to light the Sacred Fires in our communities.
- Take our natural traditional medicines. Each territory has their medicines. Use them now in prevention.
- Spend as much time on the land as you can.
- Consider the health and safety of all participants of our larger ceremonies. The Elders respect the autonomy of each ceremonial leader to make the decision whether to go forward with our ceremonies at this time or not, and if going ahead, to consider that safety measures be provided.