



Aboriginal Affairs  
and Northern Development

# Bulletin

June & July 2005

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- **Message from the Minister**

**On behalf of** Premier Ralph Klein, and all my colleagues in the Alberta government, I would like to extend an invitation to all Albertans to experience provincial Centennial celebrations from an Aboriginal perspective.

**During the next few months**, Centennial events in all parts our great province will be held. Some of these unique and vibrant celebrations will coincide with National Aboriginal Day festivities on June 21. A detailed list is contained within the next few pages of this publication.

Again, **I encourage everyone** to explore Alberta and to discover the province's rich Aboriginal culture and history during this time of celebration.

Sincerely,



Pearl Calahasen, Minister  
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

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## 2005 Aboriginal Centennial Initiative



**In the past 100 years**, Aboriginal people have worked to strengthen their communities through partnerships. The focus of these partnerships has been to improve the well-being and self-reliance of Aboriginal people and communities. Alberta Centennial 2005 is a time to pay tribute to the pioneers and visionaries of the past.

**Throughout the Centennial year**, Aboriginal communities will be showcasing the strength that is born from working together. These community-focused initiatives draw from the creative resources of all four corners of Alberta and are offered as gifts to enrich Alberta's heritage. The months and years of personal service and effort to bring these legacies to fruition have strengthened not only the people and organizations who participate in these celebrations, but also the entire province of Alberta.



**Centennial celebrations will provide** a means for Aboriginal Elders and communities to share their stories, their contributions, and their history. Special celebrations taking place around the province will showcase how Aboriginal culture, language and traditions contribute to, and enrich Alberta's heritage. The Alberta government recognizes that Aboriginal people are significant contributors to the development and growth of our province.

**The Alberta Centennial will recognize** the outstanding contributions that Aboriginal people have made to Alberta in the areas of business and commerce, arts and culture, recreation, and sports.

**Aboriginal Albertans** will continue to make valuable contributions to the growth and development of Alberta in the next 100 years.



## 2005 Aboriginal Centennial Initiative

April 26-29	<b>Edmonton Metis Cultural Dance Society</b> —Indigenous Dance Quest ( <i>Edmonton</i> )
May 5	<b>Institute of the Advancement of Aboriginal Women</b> — Cha'Pan "Great Grandmother" ( <i>Edmonton</i> )
May 23-25	<b>Native Seniors Centre</b> — A Celebration of the Aboriginal-Alberta Connection, 1905-2005 ( <i>Edmonton</i> )
June 15-18	<b>Miywasin Society of Aboriginal Services</b> — History in the Hills: Celebration 2005 ( <i>Cypress Hills</i> )
June 17	<b>Aboriginal Resource Centre Association</b> — New Beginnings, New Future, Eighth Generation of New Hope ( <i>Calgary</i> )
June 18-25	<b>City of Calgary Aboriginal Awareness Week</b> —Centennial Activities ( <i>Calgary</i> )
June 20-25	<b>Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta</b> —Honouring Our Treaty Gathering ( <i>Grouard</i> )
June 22-25	<b>Dreamspeakers Festival Society</b> —Film Festival ( <i>Edmonton</i> )
June 24	<b>Dreamspeakers Festival Society</b> —Centennial Gala and Walk of Fame ( <i>Edmonton</i> )
June 26	<b>Mamawenowak Gathering of People Society</b> —Honouring Our Elders ( <i>Grande Prairie</i> )
June 26 & September 5	<b>Sun &amp; Moon Visionaries Aboriginal Artisan Society</b> — Aboriginal Centennial Celebrations ( <i>Edmonton</i> )
July 8-17	<b>Calgary Exhibition &amp; Stampede Ltd.</b> —Calgary Stampede—Aboriginal Profile ( <i>Calgary</i> )
July 22-31	<b>Tsuu T'ina First Nation</b> —Dene Gathering 2005 ( <i>Red Meadows</i> )
July 31— August 6	<b>Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation</b> —K'ai Taile Denesuline Gathering ( <i>Fort Chipewyan</i> )
August 3-7	<b>Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations</b> —International Indian Treaty Conference ( <i>Hobbema</i> )
August TBA	<b>Fishing Lake Metis Settlement</b> —A Proud and Determined People: History of Metis Settlements in Alberta ( <i>Fishing Lake</i> )
August 11-15	<b>Kikino Metis Settlement</b> —Celebration Days Cultural Gala ( <i>Kikino</i> )
August 12-13	<b>Paul Band First Nation</b> —Honouring Our Chiefs Centennial Project ( <i>Paul Band</i> )
August 24-26	<b>Metis Nation of Alberta</b> —Centennial Wagon Trek ( <i>Batoche to Metis Crossing</i> )
August 25-27	<b>Metis Nation of Alberta</b> —Metis Centennial Journey ( <i>Edmonton to Smokey Lake</i> )
September	<b>Calgary International Film Festival</b> —Aboriginal Showcase ( <i>Calgary</i> )
September	<b>Siksika Nation</b> —Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park Unveiling Ceremony ( <i>Siksika</i> )
September 1	<b>Elizabeth Metis Settlement</b> —Alberta Centennial 2005 Celebration ( <i>Elizabeth</i> )
September 1	<b>Sucker Creek First Nation</b> —Treaty 8 House Walking Trails Opening ( <i>Sucker Creek</i> )
September 2-4	<b>Gift Lake Metis Settlement</b> —Centennial Cultural Days ( <i>Gift Lake</i> )
September 3	<b>First Nations Resource Council</b> —Centennial Powwow ( <i>Edmonton</i> )
September 8-9	<b>Alberta Native Friendship Centre Association</b> — Elders' Centennial Healing Journey ( <i>Cold Lake</i> )
September 21 & September 28	<b>Safe &amp; Caring Schools and Communities</b> —100 Years of Sharing: Safe and Caring Centennial Community Celebration ( <i>Lake Dell and Wabasca</i> )
September 23-25	<b>Oldman River Cultural Centre</b> — Youth Leadership Conference and Centennial Powwow ( <i>Piikani Nation</i> )
October 12	<b>Alberta School Boards Association</b> —Youth Education Centennial Celebrations ( <i>Edmonton</i> )
November TBA	<b>World Indigenous Nations Sport Conference</b> ( <i>TBA</i> )
	<b>Metis Settlements General Council</b> —History Book/DVD
	<b>Lac Ste Anne Pilgrimage Legacy</b>
	<b>Heritage Community Foundation</b> —Aboriginal Centennial DVD

### The Alberta Centennial Legacies Grant Program

has provided funding for Aboriginal capital projects including the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, Métis Crossing. To further ensure that Alberta's Aboriginal people are part of the celebrations, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development is supporting 33 Aboriginal Centennial Initiative throughout the province.

## History in the Hills

A **cross-cultural Western Frontier** feast of fun and activity is being prepared in Cypress Hills country in southern Alberta to help mark the province's Centennial.

On June 18th, History in the Hills is being staged to aid in marking Alberta's 100th anniversary as a province by rejuvenating its unique history and traditions by taking visitors back in time.

Imagine smoke swirling above an open fire into a cloudless Prairie sky, the world standing still, squirrels chattering and birds of prey soaring above.

The Saturday, cross-cultural event in and around Medicine Hat showcases a circle of tipis and trappers tents with interpreters and interactive exhibits.

Visitors will have a chance to view an active archaeological dig, sample native fry bread being made over an open fire, learn to dance a Metis jig, play native games, and watch a hide tanning demonstration.

A North-West Mounted Police bell tent will also be featured. Interpreted by Fort Walsh National Historic Site of Canada staff, this station will be set up as a traditional NWMP patrol camp.

The costumed interpretive staff of Fort Walsh will interpret the challenges faced by the NWMP in their quest to bring law and order and a sense of sovereignty to the Western Frontier. Visitors will be invited inside the NWMP bell tent to view items usually taken on patrol by members and listen to a story which outlines the duties of a NWMP officer.

Interpreters will showcase traditional Cree artifacts and talk about the traditional way of life for the Cree people and the significance of the 'Thundering Hills' to their culture.

The importance of proper tipi protocol using artifacts and displays will also be discussed. As well, staff interpret the importance of the symbols on their tipi and the roles that the males and females play in tipi maintenance. An introduction to Medicine Wheel teachings will also be provided.

Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park staff plan to teach visitors about the unique plants and animals found in the Cypress Hills area, and the importance of protecting these natural features, many of them unique to Alberta.

The gathering is in part sponsored by the Medicine Hat-based Miywasin Society. Miywasin is a Cree word meaning 'It is Good'. This event promises to be a great real-life experience.

## Dreamspeakers Film Festival 10th anniversary

**Celebrating its 10th anniversary** in 2005, the Dreamspeakers Film Festival is a high-profile event with a reputation as one of Canada's most prestigious Aboriginal film festivals.

The five-day event, hosted in Edmonton every June, has blossomed into a bona fide blockbuster for Aboriginal filmmakers, performers and artists.

From modest beginnings to becoming an important date in the international film festival calendar, the Festival has provided Aboriginal peoples from around the globe an opportunity to gather in order to share their common bond.

"Culture," Alberta's late Lieutenant-Governor Lois Hole once said, "is the ultimate renewable resource."

For 10 years, the Dreamspeakers Film Festival—through perseverance and hard work—has been cultivating Aboriginal culture, inspiring a generation of Aboriginal people. Festival organizers are still as ambitious and as enthusiastic as ever.

As part of its mandate, the Dreamspeakers Society supports, promotes and markets Aboriginal culture, art and heritage. It is a resource for Aboriginal filmmakers, for directors, scriptwriters, cameramen, technicians, actors, musicians, storytellers, artists and craftspeople.

The Society is a resource bank which provides a way to get in touch with Aboriginal filmmakers, performers and artists. Dreamspeakers allows Aboriginal people to receive training in arts, culture and festival operations.

Due to the Society's dedication to excellence, the Aboriginal film industry has come a long way in the past decade, showcasing the culture of Aboriginals through high-quality films that are bringing deserved accolades to their makers.

Aboriginal people have stories to tell and stories that need to be told. Engaging stories from Aboriginal communities are being transformed from ideas into reality with vitality.

The atmosphere is heightened by visits from prominent Aboriginal actors and directors, as well as gala parties and receptions.

Among the notable actors, directors and producers attending this year's edition, June 22 to 25, are Alex Rice, Gerald Auger, Sonny Skyhawkview, Nathaniel Arcand, Molly Culverview, Sheri Foster, Dakota House and many other prominent individuals.