Pipe Ceremony

7:00 a.m. Monday, November 17, Verdi Room, Delta Hotels by Marriott Regina

The Pipe Ceremony is a sacred ceremony for First Nations people and practice varies from regions and teachings. Pipes and ceremony are given as gifts to certain people known as pipe carriers, who are recognized as having extensive cultural knowledge. In the past, the Pipe Ceremony was used to open negotiations/talks between different nations, and it continues to be used today to ask for good outcomes of an event.

Preparations for the Pipe Ceremony are carried out by the pipe carrier and their helper who will provide instructions to the attendees. After everyone has smudged and the medicines are lit, the pipe is passed to participants to either touch or smoke. The passing of the pipe can be repeated several times. To smoke tobacco from or touch a sacred pipe is considered a very powerful way of communicating with the spirit world. The smoke from the pipe carries the collective prayers of the group to the Creator and creates and avenue of dialogue and connection between the human and spirit world.

Everyone is invited to attend the Pipe Ceremony. Participants are requested to read the Pipe Ceremony Protocol below prior to attending.

Protocol for Pipe Ceremony

- Everyone is asked to participate in smudging before the Pipe Ceremony.
- Everyone should remove their hats, eyeglasses, shoes, watch and metal jewelry while smudging and participating in the Pipe Ceremony.
- The pipe carrier/cultural advisor/helper will advise where participants are to sit.
- Those who are able to sit on the floor, are asked to sit on the floor.
- Participants are asked to remain silent and refrain from visiting and conversations while the Pipe Ceremony is underway.
- Women are asked to wear a long dress/skirt that reaches below the knee or cover with a blanket and must not sit cross-legged.
- Women who are menstruating are asked to refrain from participating in the Pipe Ceremony due to the power they hold as life givers.
- Taking photos/videos of the Pipe Ceremony is not permitted.

Smudging

7:15 a.m. Tuesday, November 18, Verdi Room, Delta Hotels by Marriott Regina

Smudging is a tradition observed by many Indigenous cultures which involves the use of one or more medicines gathered from the earth. Indigenous Peoples in Saskatchewan generally use sweetgrass, sages, cedars and other plants for smudging. To smudge is an act of purifying the body, soul, mind, and physical surroundings for the day. Smudging provides an opportunity for people to stop, slow down, and become mindful and centered. This allows people to remember, connect and be grounded in the event, task or purpose at hand.

Everyone is invited to participate in smudging.