

Protocol & Celebrations

Content Warning

The Truth and Reconciliation Challenge features content that is sensitive and may be distressing to some. Please take care.

If you find yourself experiencing distress, please reach out for support.

- AHS Mental Health Helpline 1-877-303-2642
- Provincial Line - 811
- Crisis Text Line – Text Connect to 741741
- National Indian Residential School Crisis Line – 1-866-925-4419
- Hope for Wellness Helpline is available 24/7 to all Indigenous People across Canada. Chat online or call 1-855-242-3310.

The Importance of Protocols

The term **protocol** includes many things, but overall, it refers to ways of interacting with Indigenous people in a manner that respects traditional ways of being.

Protocols are not just “manners” or “rules” – they are a representation of a culture’s deeply held ethical way of being. An example of this are the protocols involved when offering tobacco.

Multimedia (for later viewing)

[Video – Knowledge Keeper Randy Marten – Tobacco Protocol Teaching](#)

Knowledge Keeper Randy Marten, member of Mikisew Cree First Nation of Fort Chipewyan, shares protocol for offering tobacco (12 minutes).

Purpose of Celebrations

The purpose of gatherings and celebrations for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people is to share culture and traditions within their communities, following the natural seasons.



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION LEARNING EXPERIENCE



Indigenous people have a tradition of expressing gratitude through life practices and ceremony. These celebrations focus on sharing and honoring their culture and traditions.

Treaty Day

Treaty Day commemorates the day that treaties were signed by the Government of Canada and Indigenous peoples between the 18th and 20th centuries. The Nations shared their culture and traditions with the non-indigenous people to signify the peace and friendship intent in the treaty. Treaty Day promotes community connection within Indigenous culture.

Métis Celebrations

To commemorate Métis heritage, annual celebrations are hosted by the Métis communities of the region. These gatherings honor their heritage by sharing traditional practices and history, including music, fiddling, jigging, dance, food and traditional way of life.

Multimedia (for later viewing)

[Video – Athabasca Tribal Council Cultural Festival](#)

Watch this video to learn more about the ATC Cultural Festival and its intent (4 minutes).

Kinanâskomitin+ • merci chog • Thank you