

Info sheet - about attending the SACRED walk



Faith is Peace: Walk for our Sacred Site: Akikodjiwan

Algonquin Spiritual Elders invite you to join them with their special guests, the Cree Youth Walkers from the Journey of Nishiyuu on a massive sacred walk with Indigenous Nations, inter-faith groups, organizations & supportive Canadians - June 23, 2017 - to protect Canada's most Sacred Site in Ottawa.

Thank you for joining us - we extend our gratitude and joy to all those taking the time to support the Sacred Site *Akikojiwan- meegwetch - thank you - merci!*

Date and Time:

June 23rd, 2017

10:00 AM - Gather at Victoria Island (upper level near Booth Street)

11:00 AM - Walk to Parliament Hill for speakers and community

12:00 PM - (approximately): Reach Parliament Hill, gather for speakers

What is taking place:

A massive Sacred Walk starting from Victoria Island, along Wellington Street to Parliament Hill followed by closing speeches and prayer.

Who: All ages - all people are invited (children are very much welcomed).

Algonquin Grandmothers and Elders are inviting every Nation to attend in their traditional regalia with their sacred objects and/or tobacco. All Inter-faith and other groups are invited to attend in their traditional wear (if applicable) or brightest colours to show all nations, races and faiths joining together in unity. Wear your country or Nation's colours - carry a flag or banner.

What to bring:

- * **WATER:** There will be no water on site- Please bring your own water
- * For your own needs: sunscreen, snacks, cameras, etc.
- * Flags of your nation & sacred objects
- * Prayers can be tied to strings and carried by your group (for example - ties of cloth with a few pinches of tobacco, or buddhist prayer ties, or any version of prayers that represent you or your group.)
- * Placards - posters with messages of support
- * Banners or posters representing your group to help see the diversity of those at the Sacred Walk (this is so important!)

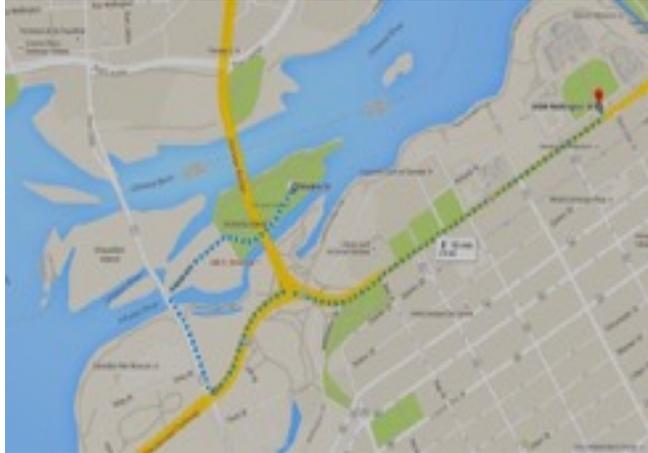
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How to make strings of tobacco ties (prayer ties)

- * If you are interested in making Indigenous prayer ties, they would be greatly appreciated as offerings at the end of the walk. The string of prayers can be extended in length like a long ribbon carried by those walking. They are tied to a long white cotton string and every few inches, small cloths holding a pinch of tobacco are tied to the string.
- * Example videos about making indigenous prayer ties:
 - A short version taught to children - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwKhSj5UcAQ>
 - Another version for making smaller ties - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8YL2u3s13dc>



Map of the route:



Where to park:

There are parking lots in the area. The closest one to the island is at the War Museum. Or park close to our walking route. For ex:

- *War Museum* - 1 Vimy Place, K1A0M8
- *World Exchange Plaza* - 45 O'Connor St, K1P 1A4 - (LPG cars not allowed)
- *Constitution Square* - 350 Albert St., K1R 7X7

**Note: There will be no parking on Victoria Island.

Do I have to register?

- * You don't have to register - anyone and everyone is welcomed on the walk. However, to help our organizing committee, we greatly appreciate if you RSVP on our (30 second) online form at: www.itIsSacred.ca/rsvp/
- * For groups of 10 or more an RSVP would be greatly appreciated. (Opportunities for official photos for groups.)

Contact Us for more info:

Please contact us on the website contact page (www.itIsSacred.ca) with your inquiry or a phone number and we will respond within 24 hrs. You can also email us at andree@productionscazabon.com

Contact us on Facebook:

- * It Is Sacred (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1718291061762475/>) OR
- * Faith Is Peace: Walk for Our Sacred Site, Akikodjiwan (https://www.facebook.com/events/1906106689612742/?acontext=%7B%22action_history%22%3A%22null%22%7D) OR: faithispeace2017@gmail.com

An Invitation To *Faith Is Peace: Walk For Our Sacred Site, Akikodjiwan*

Kwey Kwey! Greetings to our fellow brothers and sisters of every Nation and every faith,

Canada's Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has called on all Canadians to work together to heal the broken relationship between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous Canadians. In TRC's 2015 final report, Call to Action 48ii calls on the church parties to the Settlement Agreement and other faith groups and interfaith social justice groups in Canada to respect Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination in spiritual matters, consistent with Article 12:1 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP).

We are writing to invite you to walk with us on Friday, June 23, 2017 to support protecting our sacred site, Akikodjiwan. Akikodjiwan is comprised of the Chaudière Falls, which are dammed and inaccessible, and the islands downstream: Albert, Chaudière, and Victoria. Akikodjiwan has been a sacred site for centuries for the Anishinabe and many other Indigenous Peoples.

The late Grandfather William Commanda had a beautiful vision, called Asinabka, for the area. His vision to heal the land and waters would reclaim it as a sacred site. Instead of endorsing this vision, the city of Ottawa allowed the site to be rezoned for Windmill Development's proposed condominium and retail development, "Zibi."

As a leader of your faith community, you are invited to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Anishinabe Elders and allies to protect our sacred site from this corporate land grab. This is no less than a threat to the Anishinabe People's right to practise their religious freedom, a right guaranteed by Canada's Charter of Rights & Freedoms.

Rabbi Bulka stated that an attack on one religion is an attack on all religions. Anishinabe Elder South Wind (Albert Dumont, a signatory to this letter) points out that, "An attack on one faith's sacred site is an attack on all our sacred sites." He has issued a call to action to protect his sacred site, and we need your help.

Last year, over 600 people walked from Akikodjiwan to Parliament Hill for the *It is Sacred* walk. This year, we are asking faith leaders in particular to step up to help us protect our sacred site.

Will you join us for the *Faith Is Peace* walk? We ask that you please RSVP to FaiThIsPeace2017@gmail.com. If you cannot physically attend, we would be grateful for a written statement of support and your prayers. We will ensure that your statement is read at Parliament Hill. We also ask you to encourage members of your faith community to attend.

Respectfully and in peace and friendship,

Migwech,

Elder Albert Dumont (South Wind), Nokomis (Grandmother) Jane Chartrand, and the Organizing Committee of *Faith Is Peace*.

Schedule on 23 June 2017:

10am: Gather on Victoria Island, at the Booth Street entrance. Prayers and ceremonies.

11am: Walk to Parliament Hill.

12pm (approximately): Reach Parliament Hill, gather for speakers.

For more information, please see:

Website: <http://albertdumont.com/faith-is-peace-walk/>

Call to Action: <http://albertdumont.com/indigenous-spirituality-is-precious/>

Event on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1906106689612742/>

Website with media coverage of last year's *It Is Sacred* walk: <http://www.itissacred.ca/>

Contact for questions and to RSVP:

FaiThIsPeace2017@gmail.com