



National Indigenous Survivors of Child Welfare Network

Participant Code of Conduct & Safe Space Agreement

We are a national non-profit grassroots group of Indigenous adults who are 60s scoop adoptees or have been in foster care. We are committed to acknowledging and validating our lived experiences.

We are asking people to be proactive in creating a safer space. We want to actively create this space as one that is inviting, engaging and supportive, where all people feel comfortable behaving genuinely.

In a safer space, we recognise and respect that everyone comes with different experiences. That people come from a variety of sexualities, genders and abilities. We approach people openly, without making assumptions. If we are confused about how someone identifies, we ask, and if we are ignorant, we do our research. We respect that not everyone will want to reveal everything about themselves.

In a safer space, we are gentle and generous with ourselves and each other.

In a safer space everyone has the right to feel confident to ask for what they need, to take care of themselves, to say no, to ask for space. We are sensitive to other's personal space, boundaries and privacy.

We agree to treat each other with the utmost respect, care and support by observing the suggested guidelines below while participating in the 3rd National Bi-Giwen Indigenous Survivors of Child Welfare Gathering.

- **Boundaries** – Establish healthy personal boundaries and respect the boundaries of others. Know your limits, trust your gut, be assertive but kind, practice self care.
- **Confidentiality** – What is talked about in the Circle stays in the Circle. Do not identify others outside of the Circle without their permission.
- **Privacy** – Respect each other's right to privacy. Do not take cell phone pictures or videos without permission. Do not repeat details of others' experiences.
- **Personal Space** – Be aware of others' personal space, ask consent for hugs. Respect people's physical and emotional boundaries. Always get explicit verbal consent before touching someone or crossing personal boundaries. Respect the fact that some people may find non-

consensual touching of any form (including hugs, tapping on shoulders, etc.) disrespectful or triggering. Ensure you have asked or been given consent before touching others.

- **Media** – For the privacy and security of those attending the Gathering please ask permission to take photos of others and permission to post on social media sites like Facebook, Instagram etc.
- **Harm Reduction** – While we are asking for the space to be drug and alcohol free, we recognize the difficulties a policy like this might create. We are committed to making spaces to have open conversations about this as a group and/or one on one, as well as provide any other support necessary to reduce harm collectively and meet people where they are at.
- **Sacred Items** - Do not touch the medicines or items in bundles of Elders, pipe carriers or helpers without permission.
- **Non Violent Space** -Violence, bullying, intimidation or name-calling will not be tolerated. You may be asked to leave at your own expense.
- **Respect** people's opinions, beliefs, differing states of being and differing points of view.
- **Sharing Circle** -when the person holding the rock/feather or talking stick is sharing do not speak or interfere with that person's time. Please do not interrupt, ask questions or talk over. Also, be mindful of time, so that others may have a turn to speak.
- **Smoking** – Smoke in designated areas and clean up your own garbage, drinking cups etc.
- **Children and Youth** - Your children are your responsibility at all times unless they are in a designated program with a youth worker. Look out for kids at all times and try not to leave anything around which may endanger them. Youth under 19 ill not be permitted to smoke on site as per law.
- **Socializing** - Noise should be kept to a minimum after 10:00 pm, so that people can sleep peacefully. There will be space in the main lodge or fire pit area where people can hang out to socialize

Date:

Signature: