



## **CALL FOR ELDERS GATHERING AT TURTLE LODGE**

AN INVITATION FROM DAVE COURCHENE (NII GAANI AKI ININI – LEADING EARTH MAN), ANISHNABE NATION

MAY 6 TO 9, 2012

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Announced publicly Sept 21, 2011 in Calgary, Alberta, and flowing from the Elders Gathering in Tsuu T'ina in conjunction with the Treaty #1-11 Gathering in Calgary on September 20, 2011, the Elders expressed that there was a need for a spiritual gathering of Elders, Oral historians, Bundle carriers and Traditional knowledge keepers of our First Nations to share our understanding of the spirit and intent of our Treaties.

The Elders said that the discussion has to be held in a sacred place, on the land, and in a forum that honours our traditional ways and protocols. Elders will be invited to bring their pipes, treaty bundles and sacred songs and stories. Elders will be able to share their wisdom to help all of the people as we return to ceremony to seek spiritual help and guidance. The circle will call on the Grandmothers and their teachings. Youth will be encouraged to take their place in the circle to learn about our way of life.

### INVITATION

- To the Elders, Bundle carriers, Oral historians and Traditional knowledge keepers to gather at the Turtle Lodge in the Sagkeeng First Nation in southeastern Manitoba, from May 6-9, 2012.

### LOCATION

- The Turtle Lodge is a place built from a vision, with volunteer assistance and which is completely independent from outside organizations, associations and funding
- Camping is available on site and hotels are available nearby <http://theturtlelodge.org/visit.html>

### COST

- Individuals will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses
- The use of the facilities for the Elders will be donated by the Turtle Lodge
- Communities & organizations are invited to sponsor an Elder's expenses
- Additional funding and support will be sought

### DATE

- May 6-9, 2012

CONTACT: [turtlelodge@mts.net](mailto:turtlelodge@mts.net), <http://theturtlelodge.org/events.html>

