



## **A Gathering of the Wisdom Keepers of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas SENDING A MESSAGE TO THE WORLD MAY 24 TO 27, 2012**

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

- 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. Open to All!

### **LOCATION**

- At the **Turtle Lodge**: 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. Location & directions at <http://theturtlelodge.org/visit.html>

### **COST**

- Individuals will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses
- Visitors are welcome to camp on site
- Communities & organizations are invited to sponsor an Elder's expenses
- Bring food, chairs, tobacco and a donation of your choice to contribute to the gathering!

### **CONTACT**

- [turtlelodge@mts.net](mailto:turtlelodge@mts.net)

**As the Original free and independent Nations of this land, it is a time now to share what has helped us to survive as a People. It has always been our connection to Spirit, our Ancestors, and the Land. We have a profound and rich understanding as a People that can lay a foundation that supports the New Life that our Elders tell us is arriving. I am issuing a call for a gathering to the Keepers of our traditional knowledge, the Healers, and Leaders of our ceremonies, who represent the Spiritual Leaders of our Nation. I call upon their help to gather and issue a collective statement of our concern as to what is happening in our world today, and bring a message that can help define a direction that can help everyone find a way to support this New Life that is arriving.**

**In addition to the Spiritual Leaders I make an open call to those who would wish to experience this truly historical event. 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. This gathering will happen on May 24-27, 2012 on the land of Sagkeeng First Nation in the province of Manitoba, Canada, adjacent to a sacred site known as Manito Api, a sacred site recognized as the centre of Turtle Island. It was here that our Ancestors have always gathered and celebrated life.**

**As the First Peoples of this land we were given Original Instructions of how we should live and behave, and we have managed to fulfill these instructions. In prophecy it was said that a time would arrive when these Original Instructions as they were given were to be shared with all Peoples that would arrive upon our Land. I believe that time is now. We are challenged to find a path that can support this New Life. Nature is giving birth, and as she is giving birth to this New Life, she will bring many changes. These changes will help humankind to realize the importance of living a life of values that supports and respects all life. The message that can be developed from the Wisdom Keepers of our Nations can help define a foundation that will help support a new world based on the importance of being anchored to Spirit, and that defines a close and sacred relationship to the Land.**

**Nothing or no one can stop the forces of Nature as she brings back balance and harmony. The Elders have been able to read the signs and hear the voices of the land as she instructs us in preparing us on what she will expect if we are to survive as the human family. It will require a change of attitude, a dismantling of structures, and concepts that have divided and separated us as human beings in letting go of the view that the Earth can be conquered and subjugated to man's continued view of dominance. We must all make a return to the Original Instructions given to all of us by the Higher Power of Spirit. Just the fact that we will gather will send a message to the world. The Sacred Fires will be lit, the Drums will sound, and the Rattles will sound, reminding us of the beginning sound of the seeds of Creation.**