

## **Oshkopimatizeek Youth Mentorship Gathering**

### **A GATHERING OF SHARING & MENTORSHIP**

#### **Indigenous Elders Mentor the Leaders of the New Generation**

**TURTLE LODGE, SAGKEENG FIRST NATION ~ MANITOBA, CANADA ~ DECEMBER 19-22, 2011**

The Turtle Lodge is making a call to Young People ages 18-25 (flexible) of all cultures in hope that they will listen and be responsive to the knowledge and wisdom of the Indigenous Elders in this special 4-day gathering of ceremony, sharing, teachings and discussion, following traditional protocols. This special gathering will be held in a sacred place, in what is regarded as the geographic centre of the continent called Turtle Island. The gathering ends on the night of the Winter Solstice with staying up all night to invoke blessing of the common vision we come to agreement on, and the greeting of the New Sun.

Traditionally Indigenous people have always gone into ceremony to celebrate what is considered the longest night – the Winter Solstice. It has always been a time when we have given of ourselves spiritually and prepared to greet the New Sun, with intentions of living vision that is anchored to Spirit – Vision that has a spiritual foundation.

So much has been lost because we have not allowed sacred law to be the foundation of how we should live and behave as a human family. Prophecy foretold that we would come forward as Indigenous people in the time of the arrival of a New Life, to share the richness of a belief system that connects us to the Spirit and to everything in Nature that is alive. At the heart of Anishnabe belief, the Seven Teachings are applicable to all humanity; and can be the lasting foundation upon which a peaceful world can be built.

When we greet the New Sun it is in acknowledgement of our commitment to support the New Life.

It is with belief in our prophecy that we make this invitation to the Young People, who will be in the forefront of bringing a greater understanding of human existence, through the mentorship, inspiration and wisdom of the Indigenous Elders of Turtle Island. Youth will gain insights that cannot be taught at any university; and the first-hand benefit of knowledge from Elders who have spent their whole lives earning traditional knowledge. The Young people will gain an introduction to the foundation they need – one based on our traditional spiritual and Earth-based values as Indigenous people, which will offer them a good grounding in whatever path they choose in the nurturing and the development of their unique gifts.

There will be engagement of, mentorship and sharing by everyone. It is hoped that the Young People will share their concerns and knowledge.

What will be important in the gathering will be the final night, when through discussions, there will be agreement on a collective Vision that will reflect our unity and common purpose. Out of the Vision we will define some definitive action whereby the Youth will begin to act as the agents of change that will support the New Life, mentored by the Elders.

We will stay up all night on the final night - the Winter Solstice - to give of ourselves in prayer and ceremony and greet the New Sun of 2012 that will give blessing to our common vision.

Youth are asked to bring prepared dishes for a potluck sharing of food each day, and will be responsible for your own accommodation. You are welcome to stay at the Turtle Lodge if you wish - just bring your own bedding and foam/air mattress. Youth are asked to bring tobacco and a donation (amount of your own choosing) to give to the Elders as a gesture of respect and gratitude for what you will be learning. Youth under age 18 must be accompanied by a mentor.

**For more information, contact [turtlelodge@mts.net](mailto:turtlelodge@mts.net). [www.theturtlelodge.org](http://www.theturtlelodge.org)**