

BRAIDING KNOWLEDGES GATHERING 2026

March 4-6, 2026, Saskatoon



BRAIDING KNOWLEDGES CANADA
RENOUER LES SAVOIRS CANADA

WITH FUNDING FROM



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Land Acknowledgement



Braiding Knowledges Canada (BKC) is proud to be part of a rich history of Indigenous knowledge and culture, including Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being. We recognize the historical trauma and the triumphs that many different cultures, lands and Nations have continuously faced within Canada.

We acknowledge that we are on the treaty lands and territory of numerous and diverse Indigenous Nations and pay tribute to their heritage and legacy, as we strengthen ties with the communities we serve while taking concrete actions towards meaningful reconciliation. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work with Indigenous communities on this land. We pay respect to all Indigenous people from all nations across Canada, acknowledge the traditional knowledge keepers and honour their leaders.

BKC recognizes and honours the vital role Indigenous knowledge, principles, and ways of being, bring to research, operations, and governance as we work together to develop a better understanding of our shared mountain ecosystems and beyond. BKC commits to braiding ethical space and Indigenous principles in everything we do, emphasizing the interconnectedness of our society, nature and our collective place in the environment.

BKC affirms the rights-based self-determination of Indigenous Peoples and commits to upholding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) commitments in all BKC Undertakings.

Wanuskewin Heritage Park view of South Saskatchewan River
Photo by Jeffery J. Nichols

Message from Leadership



Welcome to the Braiding Knowledges 2026 Gathering!

March 4-6, 2026 | Wanuskewin, Saskatoon, SK

Braiding Knowledges Canada (BKC) is honoured to host its 2026 Gathering at Wanuskewin—a site of deep cultural and spiritual significance for the Indigenous Peoples of the Northern Plains. This national event brings together Indigenous and Western knowledge systems, connecting communities, researchers, and partners through keynotes, panels, and conversations that highlight Indigenous-led and co-led research from across Canada.

As BKC enters the Impact and Growth phase of its Strategic Plan, the Gathering will convene Indigenous organizations and communities, university researchers, government representatives, business and industry leaders, and not-for-profit partners to share insights, foster collaboration, and mobilize knowledge generated through Indigenous-led and co-led initiatives. Participants will engage in dynamic keynote presentations, thought-provoking panel discussions, and interactive sessions, hearing diverse perspectives that strengthen inclusive pathways for knowledge sharing and decision-making.

Over three days, we will celebrate achievements, deepen relationships, and explore collaborative approaches to environmental, cultural, and societal challenges. This Gathering is an opportunity to advance dialogue, inspire action, and contribute to a future rooted in respect, reciprocity, and responsibility.

We are grateful for your participation and look forward to the conversations, learning, and connections that will shape the path ahead.

— The Leadership Team, Braiding Knowledges Canada

BKC leadership



Michel Brazeau
Board Chair



Dr. Monique Dubé
Executive Director



Dr. Paulina Johnson
Co-Research Director



Dr. Murray Humphries
Co-Research Director



Gathering Goals



- Foster connections among BKC’s community of research teams, collaborators, Indigenous organizations, and broader stakeholders.
- Mobilize knowledge between knowledge holders and end users, including government, industry, and community decision-makers.
- Hear from end users and decision-makers on priorities and opportunities where the braiding of knowledges can generate measurable impact.
- Reflect on BKC’s progress, successes, and innovations, and consider pathways beyond 2029.

Useful information

Wanuskewin
RR#4 Penner Road
Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3J9
Tel: (306) 931-6767 ext. 0

Event contact:

events@braidingknowledges.ca

Gathering information



BKC Website



braidingknowledgescanada.ca

Spread the word on social media!

Use the hashtag **#BKCGathering2026** and the following handles to tag BKC, spread the word and share your photos!

Gathering hashtag:

#BKCGathering2026


Follow us on social media:

 Website: braidingknowledgescanada.ca

 Facebook: [@BraidingKnowledges](https://www.facebook.com/BraidingKnowledges)

 Twitter: [@braidingknowldg](https://twitter.com/braidingknowldg)

 Instagram: [@BraidingKnowledges](https://www.instagram.com/BraidingKnowledges)


 LinkedIn: [@BraidingKnowledges](https://www.linkedin.com/company/BraidingKnowledges)

Gathering Agenda – Day 1

Time	Wednesday, March 4 Location: Paskwaw Round (Prairie)	
7:30 - 8:30	Pipe Ceremony - Board/Committee & Staff <i>Lyndon Linklater</i>	
8:00 - 9:00	Registration & Breakfast	
9:00 - 9:15	Prayer and Elder Welcome <i>Elder Mary Lee</i>	
9:15 - 9:45	Opening Remarks & Intentions From Knowledge to Action: Braiding Knowledge for Canada's Future <i>Michel Brazeau, Monique Dubé, & Elder Karen MacKenzie</i>	
9:45 - 10:15	Grounding in Place : Storytelling <i>Lyndon Linklater</i>	
10:15 - 10:30	Wellness Break	
10:30 - 12:00	Integrated Discussion: BKC's Story & Dialogue <i>Monique Dubé, Murray Humphries, & Paulina Johnson</i>	Board of Directors meeting – Invitation Only (Location: Tatanka)
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 - 14:00	Braiding Circles of Learning: Post-Secondary Approaches <i>Charity Parr-Vasquez (Virtual), Myrle Ballard, Avery Letendre, Etanda Arden</i> Moderator: <i>Shandin Pete</i>	Board of Directors meeting – Invitation Only (Location: Tatanka)
14:00 - 14:45	Braiding Circles of Learning: Land-Based <i>Selected BKC-Funded Land-Based Learning Camps</i> Moderator: <i>Nally Rowan-Weetaluktuk</i>	
14:45 - 15:00	Closing Remarks and Reflections	
15:00 - 15:30	Wellness Break	
15:30 - 17:00	All Initiatives: Poster Sharing Circle	
17:00 - 18:00	Reception	
18:15	Shuttle to Hotel	

Gathering Agenda – Day 2

Time	Thursday, March 5 Location: Paskwaw Round (Prairie)
8:00 - 8:45	Breakfast & Reflections
8:45 - 9:00	Opening Remarks & Intentions <i>Monique Dubé & Elder Karen MacKenzie</i>
9:00 - 10:00	Introduction & Keynote Language, Knowledge Braiding, and the Shift from Extraction to Relationship in Canada's Science Culture <i>Michel Brazeau & Elder Phil Lane Jr.</i>
10:00 - 10:15	Wellness Break
10:15 - 10:30	Context Setting: From Learning & Knowledge Co-Production to Influence through Braiding <i>Monique Dubé</i>
10:30 - 11:15	Braiding & Leadership in BKC Governance <i>Michel Brazeau, Alida Oegema Thomas, Lynne Hatley, Lawrence Ignace</i> Moderator: Shannon Flint
11:15 - 12:00	Braiding & Leadership in BKC Research <i>Erinn Drage, Gùdia–Mary Jane Johnson, Paulina Johnson, Murray Humphries</i> Moderator: Carmen Richter
12:00 - 12:15	Launch of Council of Canadian Academies: Bridging Knowledge Systems Proceedings <i>Heather Ennis</i>
12:15 - 13:15	Lunch
13:15 - 14:00	Knowledge Braiding: Protection, Conservation & Guardianship <i>Justin Bruised Head, Jessica Owen, Valerie Courtois, or Designate (Virtual TBC), Elizabeth MacDonald (TBC)</i> Moderator: Myrle Ballard
14:00 - 14:45	Knowledge Braiding: Species at Risk, Relationships at Risk <i>Tanya Condo, Allison Menzies, Tamara Dokkie (TBC)</i> Moderator: Jesus Karst
14:45 - 15:15	Wellness Break

Continued on the next page 

Gathering Agenda – Day 2

Time	Thursday, March 5 (continued) Location: Paskwaw Round (Prairie)
15:15 - 16:00	Knowledge Braiding Pathways <i>Fabian Sinclair, Sara Wickham, Reta Meng, Paulina Johnson</i> Moderator: Talon Giroux
16:00 - 16:30	Knowledge Braiding: Future Leaders <i>Youth with The Howl Experience</i> Moderator: Megan Legare
16:30 - 16:45	Closing & Reflections <i>Michel Brazeau & Monique Dubé</i>
16:45 - 18:00	Mocktails & Exploring Wanuskewin (Reception & Exhibits)
18:00 - 19:30	Dinner with Dancing & Drumming Presentation
19:45	Shuttle to Hotel

Subscribe to the BKC Newsletter!

Subscribe to our newsletter to receive important announcements, upcoming events, partner initiatives, funding opportunities, and learning offerings.

Be the first to hear about new programs, gatherings, resources, and ways to stay engaged in the work.

Scan the QR code to sign up and stay connected beyond the Gathering.





**Braiding Knowledges
2026 Gathering**
March 4-6, 2026

Register Now!

Braiding Knowledges Gathering

March 4-6, 2026
Wanuskewin, Saskatoon, SK

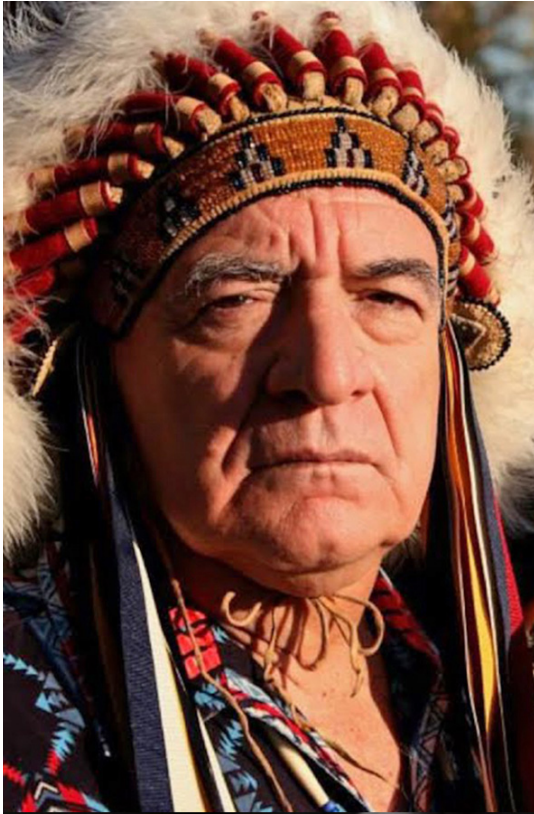
Registration is now open!

Braiding Knowledges Canada (BKC) invites you to its 2026 Annual Gathering—a national convening that brings Indigenous and Western knowledge systems together in a vibrant, shared space for learning, reflection, and connection. Join knowledge holders, researchers, practitioners, and community leaders for engaging keynotes, thoughtful panel discussions, and interactive sessions that elevate diverse perspectives and support inclusive, action-oriented approaches to knowledge sharing and decision-making.

Gathering Agenda – Day 3

Time	Friday, March 6 Location: Paskwaw Round (Prairie)
8:30 - 9:15	Breakfast & Reflections
9:15 - 9:30	Opening Remarks & Intentions Monique Dubé & Elder Karen MacKenzie
9:30 - 9:45	Context Setting: Circles of Influence Monique Dubé
9:45 - 10:15	Braiding Circles of Influence: Spotlight on a Distinctions-Based Knowledge Hub Kelsey Scarfone Moderator: Lawrence Ignace
10:15 - 10:30	Wellness Break
10:30 - 11:15	Braiding Circles of Influence: Government, Industry, & Not-For-Profits Monique Dubé, Delephine Gall, Shannon Flint, Carla Davidson, Don Carruthers Moderator: Bill Borland
11:15 - 12:00	Braiding Circles of Influence: Co-Management David Borish, Clifford Paul, Deana Lemke, Bill Snow, Nicole Porter Moderator: Jamie Snook
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch – Shuttle to Airport 13:00
13:00 - 14:00	Integrated Discussion: BKC Beyond 2029 An Open Q&A with BKC's Board of Directors Moderator: Jamie Snook
14:00 - 14:15	Closing Remarks & Reflections Michel Brazeau & Monique Dubé
14:15 - 14:30	Closing Prayer Elder Mary Lee
14:45	Shuttle to Hotel/Airport

Keynote Address: Elder Phil Lane



Hereditary Chief Phil Lane Jr. is an enrolled member of the Ihanktonwan Dakota and Chickasaw Nations and an internationally recognized leader in human, community, and economic development. For over 50 years, he has worked with Indigenous Peoples across the Americas, Asia, Micronesia, and Africa. He served 16 years as an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Lethbridge and founded the Four Worlds International Institute in 1982. He is also Chairman of Four Directions International and Compassion Games International.

Recognized globally for his leadership, Chief Lane was honoured as a Hereditary Chief in 1992 through a Traditional Headdress Ceremony. He has received numerous awards, including the Windstar Award and the Swiss Foundation's Year 2000 Award for Freedom and Human Rights, and was a key Indigenous leader in advancing resolution of Canada's Residential School legacy. He currently serves on the Council of Elders for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, hosts the Shift Network's Global Indigenous Wisdom Summits, and is an Honorary International Advisor to the Help Foundation of Beijing.

Host & MC: Danii Kehler



Danii Kehler is a Plains Cree woman from the Kawacatoose First Nation on Treaty 4 territory who is an Indigenous artist. She has recently received her Bachelor of Commerce in Business Management from the University of Saskatchewan (U of S), and is working towards obtaining a Masters in Energy Security at the U of S School of Environment and Sustainability.

Danii is an Ambassador for the Antarctic and a founding member of Antarctic Rights. She is also on the Indigenous Advisory Board for the Ubersee-Museum Bremen in Germany to oversee an exhibition project focusing on the Arctic, Antarctic and Australia, all of which are hotspots for climate change. Danii is currently the Researcher and Policy Writer for the Autonomy team at the First Nations University of Canada.

Special Host: Karen MacKenzie



Karen MacKenzie is a proud Cree-Métis woman whose family comes from Grouard, Alberta in Treaty 8. She lives in Treaty 6 and works across Turtle Island. She is the Co-Founder and President of MacKintosh Canada, an Indigenous owned, international consulting company.

Karen brings her traditional knowledge of Indigenous ways into the contemporary workplace as this wisdom and way of being reflect “wise practices of purpose driven individuals, communities and organizations.” She is committed to the “Calls to Action” from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and is an advocate for the United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). This approach supports the cocreation of a healthy and safe workplace that is inclusive, engaging, and respectful of the land, culture, and aspirations of all but particularly Indigenous peoples.

Karen is honoured to be part of the Elder in Residence Program for Indigenous Services Canada. She sits with the Circle of Elders for Edmonton Catholic Schools, heralded as a wise practice across Canada enabling greater success rates for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis learners. She sits with the Circle of Matriarchs for the City of Edmonton. Karen is an Elder/Knowledge Keeper for the Edmonton Police Service.

She was appointed as an “Expert Panel” member for the Canadian Centre for the Purpose of the Corporation and as a Senior Advisor to Navigator. She is a former member of the Community Safety and Well-Being Task Force for the City of Edmonton and is also a past member of the Edmonton Police Commission.

Karen is a Senior Advisor and mentor to the Indigenous Women in Community Leadership, Coady Institute, St. Francis Xavier University. She was appointed as one of two members for Alberta to the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments. Karen was recognized as an Albertan SHEInnovates leader under the Global Innovation Coalition for Change (GICC). She is a past board member of “Honouring Indigenous Peoples” a national Rotary initiative. Karen is a mother to six children and grandmother to two. She is a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Lyndon Linklater: Pipe Holder & Knowledge Keeper



Lyndon J Linklater is a traditional knowledge keeper and storyteller. He has an educational background in Indian Social Work, Indian Studies and some law.

He is a citizen of the Thunderchild First Nation (Plains Cree) in Treaty 6 and has roots in Couchiching First Nation (Fort Francis, Ontario) in Treaty 3.

Presently, Lyndon shares work with the Rемаi Modern Art Museum in Saskatoon as their Indigenous Relations Advisor providing advice to their board and staff and delivering cultural programming.

He is the longest serving member of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner's Speakers' Bureau, since he was appointed in 2000. Over the years, he has spoken to tens of thousands of people, delivering awareness and enlightenment on Treaty and First Nation worldview.

He is a powerful story teller that utilizes First Nation teachings that involve knowledge of ceremonies and mixes humour to deliver a poignant message

Elder Mary Lee



Elder Mary Lee is from Pelican Lake, in northern Saskatchewan. A hard working individual, Mary has always tried to daily follow cultural ways and teachings. She is connected to the land, and speaks Cree fluently.

Blessed to have a mother who could not speak English, she learned so much from her for language and traditions.

Mary was an integral part in the foundation of Wanuskewin Heritage park in the 1980s, providing food for feasts, and building the first tipis to be on site for ceremony regarding the park's creation. Mary always taught her family that to truly know about the tipi, and learn ceremony, you have to build it from the ground including finding the right trees for poles, and processing everything. She has made tipi poles and canvases for years, and does tipi teachings for the Cree style tipi set up, sharing the significance of every pole and part of the tipi. She has worked with youth in the school systems and community for over 40 years, and credits them for teaching her how to care and be patient, opening her eyes, and helping her grow.



Thank you for
joining us!



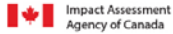
BKC Board Members & Leadership



Photos from the 2025 Annual Gathering in Gatineau, QC

Thanks to Our Partners:

Sustaining Partner and Host Institution



Assembly of First Nations



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