

HEALING THE DIVIDE

Join *Skydancer* on the Road
to Reconciliation

WHY THE NAME “SKYDANCER”?

All of the Elders in my 1992 book “Those Who Know” have passed on, and as the Cree like to say, “those dancing lights the settlers call “aurora borealis are our ancestors – those who have passed on and are now dancing in the sky”.

Since learning from the Elders changed my life, I memorialize them in the name “SKYDANCER”, in humble reverence and with my deepest gratitude.

- Dianne Meili, Skydancer President





MY PEOPLE WILL SLEEP FOR A HUNDRED YEARS AND IT WILL BE THE ARTISTS WHO AWAKEN THEM

This quote is attributed to Louis Riel, champion of the Metis. Skydancer Indigenous Cultural Centre is located in the Rotary Clubhouse on Highway 16 A. The venue is small, but is the touchpoint for important gatherings and planning sessions. It is filled with authentic, handmade art, giving our Indigenous artists a place to showcase their beautiful work. Art speaks without words in all languages.

SKYDANCER TIMELINE

Incorporation

*Our board, consisting of Indigenous and non-Indigenous members:

Dianne Meili, President

Barb Scott, Vice President

Candace Klein – Treasurer

Joanie Lofstrom – Secretary

Terri Crooks - Director

Sarah Nipshank - Director

*We were incorporated and received society status in August 2022

*We moved into our current facility on March 1, 2023

Creating Sustainability

1. Secured major operating grant from the City of Spruce Grove in December 2022
2. Our partners in Industry are Enbridge, Finning and Keyera .
3. We received provincial government support for our flagship Mistatim Journey - a women and girls' wellness program featuring art and horsemanship
4. Our tourism venture to develop the ASTAM Sanctuary - a tourism destination – will create a revenue stream

Creating Relationships

1. We have strong relationships with the City of Spruce Grove, Town of Stony Plain, Parkland County, Spruce Grove Ag Society, Tri-Region Libraries, School Divisions, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary Clubs of Spruce Grove and Stony Plain
2. Enoch, Paul Band and Alexis First Nation members have led workshops for us and join in the planning for MMIP, NIPD and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
3. We have an Elders advisory group guiding our actions. Elder Anne Marie Campiou of Enoch is our "Elder on call".
4. We are members of Indigenous Tourism Alberta, and the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada. We are certified as an "Original Original".



Our Gathering Place

First and foremost, Skydancer is a place where Indigenous and non-Indigenous people can meet to learn about, and celebrate, cultures.

We have charted a path to Truth and Reconciliation in our Tri-Region area and beyond. This is a place where we host Indigenous Elders; Chief and Councils; and government, community and business leaders in a variety of culturally-focused projects.

Cultural Liaison

Informed by our Elders, we advise municipal governments, agencies, schools and business in best practices to establish diversity, inclusion, equality, and truth and reconciliation. We do so with proper protocols in place.

Informed by our Elders, we share Indigenous ways of knowing and world views

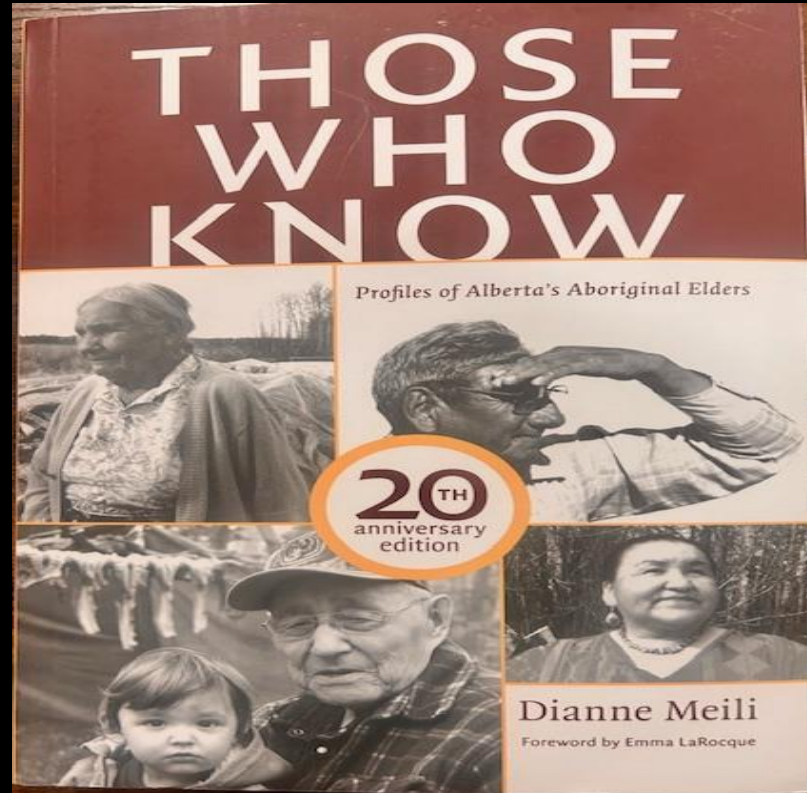
Cultural Workshops, Teachings, Speakers

- Men's vision quest or circle
- Women's Strawberry Ceremony
- Earth Day Water Ceremony
- Speakers Series
- Ribbon Skirt-making
- Tea and Bannock with an Elder
- Talking Circles
- Turtle Medicine Circles for Grounding
- Indigenous Soundbaths

SKYDANCER ART GALLERY GIFTING



Jewellery



Indigenous Books by Indigenous authors



Skin care and Herbal Tea

Yearly Awareness Events



National Indigenous Day June 21



ee Productions

"Calling you Home" National Day of Truth and Reconciliation



Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Walk – May 5

WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

***We are developing an Indigenous Accord with the City of Spruce Grove, a memorandum of understanding that will ingrain Indigenous themes/actions into municipal policies and events**

***We will continue to promote inclusion and diversity in the Tri-Region area through our workshops, speaker series, and school visits.**

***We will continue to conduct user surveys to assess what our community wants in terms of cultural programming.**

***We will continue to add to partnerships which already include municipal governments, resource companies, service clubs, businesses, agencies etc.**



Excitement Ahead - TOURISM

Mission: To create a holistic Indigenous cultural sanctuary that honors Indigenous teachings, traditions, storytelling, and wellness practices, while offering transformative experiences to both local communities and international visitors.

Vision: To be one of Canada's premier Indigenous cultural destinations, combining rustic yet comfortable lodging, a 4-elements wellness spa, educational/entertainment programs, walking/language trails, on a 40-acre site with natural and man-made water features.



Partnership

Skydancer is partnering with Putting Horse Ranch, 2 km. north of Spruce Grove on Century Road, to add Indigenous programming to their Golf and Horse Riding experiences. With a Reception Centre, camping spots for our painted tipi's, an outdoor amphitheatre for performances, a stone patio and fire pit, walking trails, washrooms and a kitchen – much of the infrastructure we require for the first phase of our 3-year tourism plan is in place.

Skydancer Lodges



Political will and funding



ITAC's 2030 Vision

**Make Canada the world leader
in Indigenous tourism by 2030**

Annual GDP contributions of \$6 billion

2,700 Indigenous tourism businesses

60,000 jobs in the Indigenous tourism industry



INTERNATIONAL
INDIGENOUS
TOURISM
CONFERENCE

CONGRÈS
INTERNATIONAL DU
TOURISME
AUTOCHTONE



IITC CITA 2026



INTERNATIONAL
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CONGRÈS
INTERNATIONAL DU
TOURISME
AUTOCHTONE

Tourism Leadership Award

Enoch
Tourism

Métis
Crossing

Blackfoot
Confederacy
Tribal Council

IITC CITA



PLEASE JOIN US ...

help us grow, and together we can
create a legacy for Indigenous and
non-Indigenous people in the Tri-
Region area and beyond