

TANYAN YAHIP! WELCOME ANIIN

TO THE FIRST EVER
PRAIRIE UNITY



**COMPETITION
POW WOW**

DECEMBER **2025** 19, 20, 21

STRIDE PLACE, PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MANITOBA

THE STORY OF PRAIRIE UNITY

The Prairie Unity Pow Wow was born from a shared vision between Dakota Plains Wahpeton Nation, Long Plain First Nation, and the City of Portage la Prairie through the First Nation-Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI).



CEDI • IDEC



As our first joint initiative, the Pow Wow marks a historic gathering of strength, spirit, and shared identity. Together, our communities wanted to create a space where everyone could gather, learn, and celebrate side by side.

The Prairie Unity logo reflects that partnership by incorporating the Medicine Wheel alongside visual elements from each community: cattails and reeds from the City of Portage la Prairie, feathers from Long Plain First Nation, and a Dakota cultural design from Dakota Plains Wahpeton Nation. Together, these symbols form a circle and a reminder that collaboration, respect, and understanding have no beginning or end.

**WHEN WE DANCE TOGETHER,
WE MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER.**



Portage *la* Prairie





CHIEF
DAVID MEECHES

MAYOR
SHARILYN KNOX

CHIEF
DON SMOKE

ANIIN WELCOME TANYÁN YAHÍPI

On behalf of Long Plain First Nation, the City of Portage la Prairie, and Dakota Plains Wahpeton Nation, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the inaugural Prairie Unity Pow Wow possible.

To our sponsors - your generosity and belief in this vision helped bring a powerful idea to life. To our dancers, singers, Knowledge Keepers, volunteers, vendors, and every attendee - thank you for sharing your spirit, your stories, and your presence with us. And to our communities - thank you for embracing this gathering with openness, pride, and unity.

The Prairie Unity Pow Wow is more than an event. It is a sacred celebration of culture, resilience, and connection. It stands as a living symbol of what we can achieve when we walk together in respect, in partnership, and in hope.

We are honoured to share this historic moment with you. May this Pow Wow continue to strengthen our relationships and guide us forward in unity for years to come.

DAKOTA PLAINS WAHPETON NATION, THE CITY OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, AND LONG PLAIN FIRST NATION
PROUDLY INVITE YOU TO THE FIRST EVER

PRAIRIE UNITY



HEAD WOMAN: SOPHIA SMOKE HEAD MAN: MAURICE MEECHES

COMPETITION POW WOW

DECEMBER 2025 19, 20, 21

STRIDE PLACE, PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MANITOBA

HOKAH SOUND

MC'S: CLIFTON GOODWILL + RICKY WHITE

C & T TABULATING

ARENA DIRECTORS: DARRYL MCKAY + KEVIN FRANCIS

HOST DRUM DAKOTA HOTAIN

INDIAN AUCTION FOOD VENDORS MARKET SPECIALS TBA

JUNIOR BOYS + GIRLS

(AGES 7 - 12)

1ST PLACE \$300
2ND PLACE \$250
3RD PLACE \$200
4TH PLACE \$180
5TH PLACE \$100

TEEN BOYS + GIRLS

(AGES 13 - 17)

1ST PLACE \$600
2ND PLACE \$500
3RD PLACE \$400
4TH PLACE \$300
5TH PLACE \$200

JUNIOR ADULT MEN + WOMEN

(AGES 18 - 39)

1ST PLACE \$1,600
2ND PLACE \$1,000
3RD PLACE \$800
4TH PLACE \$500
5TH PLACE \$200

TINY TOTS

(AGES 0 - 6)

PAID DAILY

COMITTEE SPECIAL
MENS FANCY DANCE (18+)

1ST PLACE \$1,500
2ND PLACE \$1,000
3RD PLACE \$500

SENIOR ADULT MEN + WOMEN

(AGES 40 - 89)

1ST PLACE \$1,500
2ND PLACE \$1,000
3RD PLACE \$800
4TH PLACE \$500
5TH PLACE \$200

GOLDEN AGE MEN + WOMEN

(AGES 60+)

1ST PLACE \$1,500
2ND PLACE \$1,000
3RD PLACE \$800
4TH PLACE \$500
5TH PLACE \$200

SINGING CONTEST

1ST PLACE \$15,000
2ND PLACE \$10,000
3RD PLACE \$7,000
4TH PLACE \$5,000
5TH PLACE \$2,000

 PRINCIPLE

FREE
ADMISSION

 Simplot

GRAND ENTRIES: FRIDAY: 7PM SATURDAY: 12PM + 7PM SUNDAY: 12PM

CONTACT INFO: RALPH FRANCIS: 204-870-9713 JOAN SMOKE: 204-871-4668

EMAIL: INFO@PRAIRIEUNITY.CA

ALL CHILDREN 12 & UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT SECURITY ON-SITE 24/7



WHEN WE DANCE TOGETHER
WE MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER



Committee Special

Mens Fancy 18+

Champion \$1,000.00

2nd \$800.00 3rd \$600.00 4th \$400.00 5th \$200.00

DECEMBER 19-21, 2025
PRAIRIE UNITY POWWOW
STRIDE PLACE ARENA - PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MB



Every Child Matters

12 & Under

Boys		Girls
\$500.00	Champion	\$500.00
\$400.00	2nd	\$400.00
\$300.00	3rd	\$300.00
\$200.00	4th	\$200.00
\$100.00	5th	\$100.00

DECEMBER 19-21, 2025
PRAIRIE UNITY POWWOW
STRIDE PLACE ARENA - PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MB

COMMITTEE SPECIALS

HONORING OUR STOLEN SISTERS



MMIWG

RED DRESS SPECIAL

18+

Champion \$1,000.00

2nd \$800.00 3rd \$600.00 4th \$400.00 5th \$200.00

DECEMBER 19-21, 2025
PRAIRIE UNITY POWWOW
STRIDE PLACE ARENA - PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MB



Men's Traditional

18+

Champion \$1,000.00

2nd \$800.00 3rd \$600.00 4th \$400.00 5th \$200.00

DECEMBER 19-21, 2025
PRAIRIE UNITY POWWOW
STRIDE PLACE ARENA - PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MB

Meet our Head Woman: Sophia Smoke

Anpetu Waste Ihinape Win - “There is a Good Day Coming Woman”



Sophia is a proud member of the Dakota Plains Wahpeton Oyate, descending from a line of Hereditary Chiefs. She is both Wahpetonwan and Sisseton Dakota, and has been dancing since she was just 3 years old.

Sophia wears the jingle dress to honour her Ojibway family on her maternal side, carrying the strength and healing that the dress represents. A Dakota language speaker and aspiring historian, Sophia is passionate about helping youth grow strong roots in their cultural identity and pride.

**WE ARE HONOURED TO WELCOME SOPHIA AS
HEAD WOMAN AT THE FIRST EVER
PRAIRIE UNITY POW WOW.**

A WINTER SOLSTICE SPECIAL
HONOURING HEAD WOMAN DANCER

Sophia Smoke



Jingle *All The* Way

Champion
\$1000
+ GIFT

2ND
\$800
+ GIFT
4TH
\$400
+ GIFT

3RD
\$600
+ GIFT
5TH
\$200
+ GIFT



PRAIRIE UNITY POWWOW
DECEMBER 19-21, 2025 - PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MB

+ 5 CONSOLATION PRIZES

In celebration of the Winter Solstice and the start of the festive season, the family of our Head Woman Dancer, Sophia Smoke, warmly invites all Jingle Dress dancers ages 16 and up to join her special at the Prairie Unity Pow Wow.

Show up dressed to impress in your red or green best as we honour healing, resilience, and the beauty of this season.

Meet our Head Man: Maurice Meeches

Tatanka Ska Tokata Inajin –
“White Buffalo Standing in Front”



Maurice is a proud member of Long Plain First Nation, with roots that also trace to Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate. Now living in Whitefish Bay Anishinaabe Nation in Ontario, Maurice comes from a long lineage of grass dancers on both sides of his family.

He began dancing at just 3 years old beside his father - carrying forward the teachings and traditions passed down from his grandfathers and Unkan. Today, Maurice shares that knowledge across Canada and the U.S., and continues to instill the importance of culture and tradition with his own children and youth in our communities.

**WE ARE HONOURED TO WELCOME MAURICE AS
HEAD MAN AT THE FIRST EVER
PRAIRIE UNITY POW WOW.**

TATANKA SKA TOKOTA INAJIN
MAURICE MEECHES - HEAD MAN DANCER



THE ORIGINAL STYLEZ

+++ *Grass Dance Special* +++

CHAMPION:

\$1,000

+ STAR BLANKET - JACKET - TROPHY

2ND

\$800

3RD

\$600

4TH

\$400

5TH

\$200

+ 5 CONSOLATION PRIZES



PRAIRIE UNITY POWWOW

STRIDE PLACE ARENA

DECEMBER 19-21, 2025 - PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MB

Our Head Man, Maurice Meeches, invites all Men's Grass Dancers to join him and his family at Prairie Unity Pow Wow, where they will be hosting a Men's Grass Dance Special. Old Style, Original Style, Contemporary... everyone is welcome.

Maurice's message is simple: "Come out, dance, and have fun."

POW WOW KNOW HOW



Pow wows are for everyone and are one of the best ways to experience First Nations culture first hand. They are a beautiful, vibrant celebrations where many tribes come together to sing, dance and catch up with friends and relatives.

If you have never attended a pow wow, here are a couple of helpful tips for first timers and some rules of ours to follow;

- **Doors open** 2 hours before Grand Entry
- **All bags** WILL be checked thoroughly
- **Children 12 and under** MUST be accompanied by an adult at all times
- **Listen to the MC:** The Master of Ceremonies will explain the schedule, announce specific songs, and give instructions on when to stand, sit, and when guests can dance, or when photography may be prohibited
- **Regalia vs. Costume:** Dancers wear regalia, which holds deep cultural and spiritual significance, not "costumes." Do not touch a dancer's regalia, hair, or drums without explicit permission.
- **Photography:** Always ask for permission before taking pictures or video of individuals. Photography may be prohibited during certain sacred moments, prayers, or honour songs.

- **The Dance Arena:** The center dance arena is reserved for dancing or walking in inter-tribal songs. Do not walk across it or let children play in it.
- **Seating:** There are generally areas reserved for elders, dancers, and drummers. Sometimes dancers will save their seats with a blanket. Be mindful of allowing people space for their feathers etc.
- **Drugs and Alcohol:** Pow wows are strictly drug and alcohol-free events. Individuals under the influence will be asked to leave.
- **Pets:** Pets are not permitted in the pow wow arena. Service animals are generally welcome.
- **Fallen Feathers:** If an eagle feather is dropped the MC or Arena Director will immediately request an elder or other person to retrieve. This requires a specific, respectful ceremony and must not be recorded.
- **Inter-tribal Dances:** When the MC announces an "inter-tribal" song, everyone is invited to join the dance.
- **Support Vendors:** Purchasing food and crafts from the local artisans and food vendors supports Indigenous families and communities.

If at any time you are uncertain of procedure or etiquette, please check with the MC, Arena Director, or host drum or head dancers. They will be glad to help you with your questions.

THANK YOU MIIGWECH PIDAMAYA
FOR FUELING OUR TEAM!



ORDER OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

4:00PM

- Doors , Registration Open

5:30PM

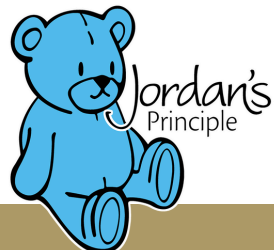
- Drum Roll Call

7:00PM

- **Suta Kachicha** Grand Entry
- Inter-tribal Singing
- Jr. Adult 1 Song
 - Women's Fancy Shawl, Jingle, Traditional
 - Men's Fancy Bustle, Grass, Prairie Chicken, Traditional
- Sr. Adult Finals 1 Song
 - Women's Fancy Shawl, Jingle, Traditional
 - Men's Fancy Bustle, Grass, Prairie Chicken, Traditional
- Committee Special
 - 18+ Men's Fancy Dance
 - All Ages Red Dress



**THANK-YOU
TO OUR
DRUM CIRCLE
SPONSORS**



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

9:00AM

- Registration Opens

10:00AM

- Pow Wow Doors Open

11:30AM

- Drum Roll Call

12:00PM

- **Petro-Canada** Grand Entry



- Inter-tribals
- Tiny Tots
- Committee Special
 - Every Child Matters
 - Ages 12 and under all categories
- Golden Age Contest 1 Song
 - Women's Fancy Shawl, Jingle, Traditional
 - Men's Fancy Bustle, Grass, Traditional
- Junior Contests 1 Song
 - Girl's Fancy Shawl, Jingle, Traditional
 - Boy's Fancy Bustle, Grass, Prairie Chicken, Traditional
- Teen Contests 1 Song
 - Girl's Fancy Shawl, Jingle, Traditional
 - Boy's Fancy Bustle, Grass, Prairie Chicken, Traditional

SATURDAY EVENING



7:00PM

- **Simplot Portage la Prairie** Grand Entry
- Inter-tribals
- Jr. Adult Finals 2 Songs
 - Women's Fancy Shawl, Jingle, Traditional
 - Men's Fancy Bustle, Grass, Prairie Chicken, Traditional
- Sr. Adult Finals 2 Songs
 - Women's Fancy Shawl, Jingle, Traditional
 - Men's Fancy Bustle, Grass, Prairie Chicken, Traditional
- Sophia Smoke Head Woman Special
 - 'Jingle All The Way'
 - 16+ Women's Jingle Dress Contest
- Maurice Meeches Head Man Special
 - Grass Dance
 - All Ages Men's Contest
- Committee Special
- Saturday Night Live
 - 18+ Men's Fancy Bustle

**THANK-YOU
FOR ATTENDING
THE FIRST EVER
PRAIRIE UNITY POW WOW**



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

10:00AM

10:30AM

- Doors , Registration Open
- Drum Roll Call



12:00PM

- **Principle Supply** Grand Entry

1PM

- Indian Auction
- Tiny Tots
- Golden Age Finals 2 Songs
 - Women's Fancy Shawl, Jingle, Traditional
 - Men's Fancy Bustle, Grass, Traditional
- Junior Finals 2 Songs
 - Girl's Fancy Shawl, Jingle, Traditional
 - Boy's Fancy Bustle, Grass, Prairie Chicken, Traditional
- Teen Finals 2 Songs
 - Girl's Fancy Shawl, Jingle, Traditional
 - Boy's Fancy Bustle, Grass, Prairie Chicken, Traditional
- Cassie Demas Giving Back Special Teen Girls Fancy
- Presentations of Jr and Sr Adult Awards
- Sarayah Assiniboine 18+ Old Style Jingle Special
- Retire Eagle Staff
- Presentations of Awards Drum Contest, Golden Age Juniors and Teens
- Conclusion

THANK YOU MIIGWECH PIDAMAYA



C G G A S V J E B J V Z Q K C S Z C B G
 J C O H G N Z Y Q U O A Q N O P X E K B
 I P H P N O P C T I N Y T O T S W L H K
 H B R I P E L X J I T U M W K W M D B Y
 X E G A C D Q D X G K C T L S N C E H B
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 B U A N W P W P X H E L A M J Y O D G R
 P M W P O R T A G E L A P R A I R I E A

- Manitoba
- Tiny Tots
- Head Man
- Pow Wow
- Elder
- Dakota Plains
- Chicken Dance
- Jingle Dress
- Head Woman
- Long Plain
- Regalia
- Stride Place
- Community
- Grass Dancer
- Treaty One
- Host Drum
- Prairie Unity
- Fancy Shawl
- Grand Entry
- Honour Song
- Golden Age
- Portage la Prairie
- Knowledge Keeper
- Arena Director

PRAIRIE UNITY WORD SEARCH

THANK YOU MIIGWECH PIDAMAYA

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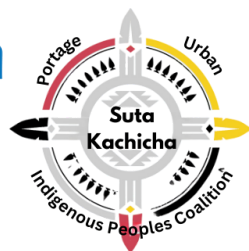
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