



Commemoration

Third Annual Mohawk Institute

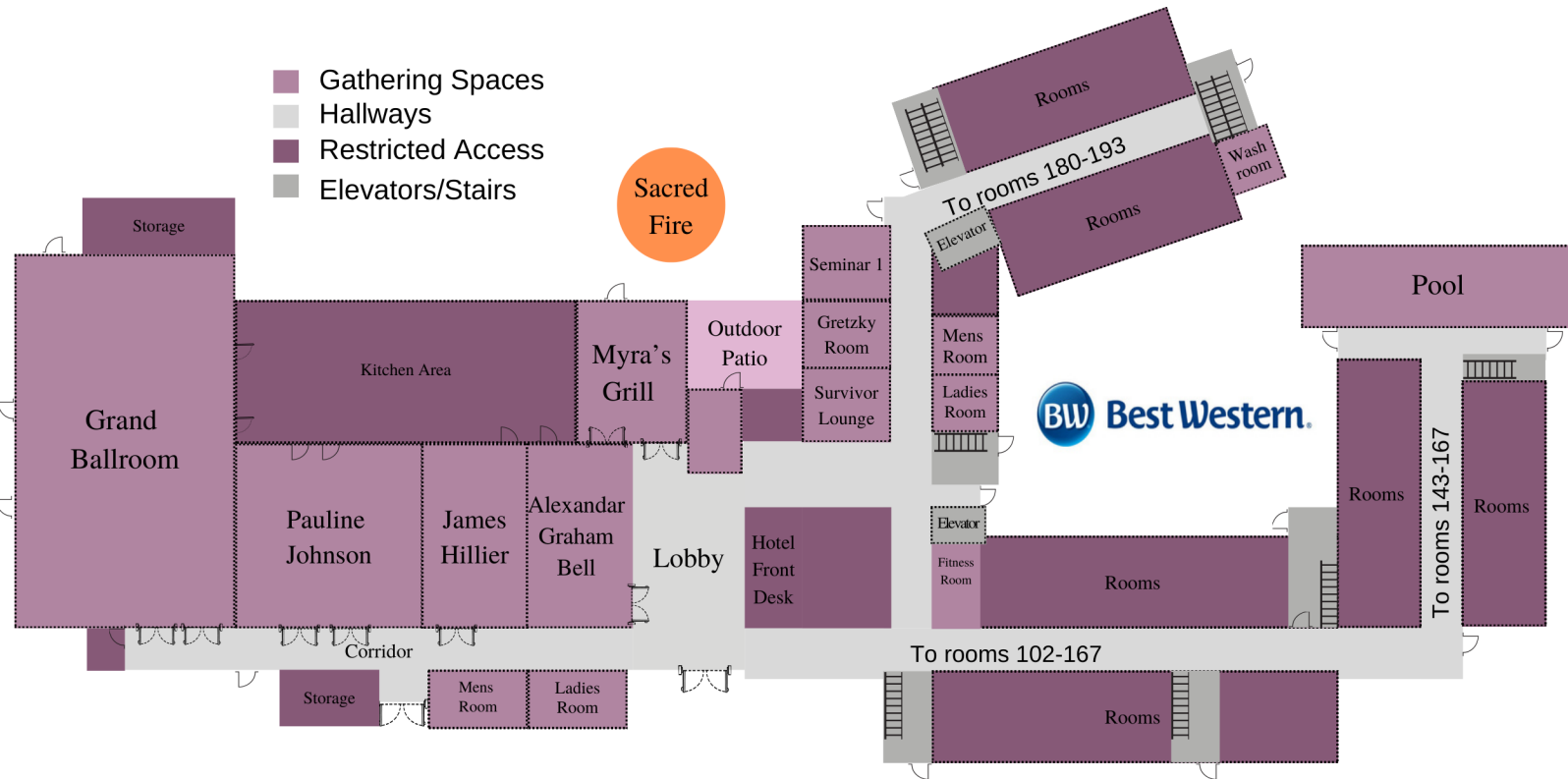
SURVIVORS GATHERING

June 25 - June 27, 2024

Third Annual Mohawk Institute

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SURVIVORS GATHERING



Hotel Floor Plan

*Please note this map is not to scale and could vary slightly to actual layout.

Scan the QR code below to access the digital agenda, read presenter bios, visit our website, sign up for our newsletters or access our social media accounts.



SURVIVORS' SECRETARIAT

2676 Fourth Line Road P.O. Box 460
Ohsweken, ON N0A 1M0



www.survivorssecretariat.ca



www.facebook.com/survivorssecretariat



@survivorssecretariat

Third Annual **Survivors Gathering** June 25-27

She:kon Sewakwe':kon

The Survivors' Secretariat Board of Directors and staff, welcome you to our Third Annual Survivors of the Mohawk Institute Gathering. We once again come together on the anniversary of the closure of the Mohawk Institute Indian Residential School (June 27, 1970) to celebrate your survival and honour the spirits of the children who did not return home.

This year, the focus of the Gathering is Commemoration. We want to share what we have learned over the past three years and seek your guidance on how best to proceed. We invite you all to participate in conversations where we will be asking some of the difficult questions the Secretariat faces on how best to "Bring the Children Home".

Each morning, we will hear from speakers and panelists who will provide updates on the work underway, and the issues we face. In the afternoons you will have the option to attend a Workshop, participate in a Discussion Circle, or learn more about our partners at an Information Fair. Workshops are opportunities for guests to learn from Knowledge Carriers and Discussion Circles are opportunities for the Secretariat to learn from Survivors like you.

The Discussion Circles will pose questions to guests about the morning's content to seek your feedback. Invited youth will sit in these circles to listen, take notes and create a presentation about "What They Heard" to present back to you on the final day of our gathering. The goal is to both obtain your insights about how the Secretariat should proceed in our work and to inspire youth to continue your legacy of truth-telling and resilience.

We want to listen to your ideas about commemoration activities, be they physical, spiritual, or even digital. We want to hear from you about the creation of protocols to protect the lands and records associated with Indian Residential Schools. Most importantly, we want to seek your guidance on how we can find and return the spirits of all children who attended these institutions, be they living or deceased.

We have a busy few days ahead; please join us in this brave space of dialogue as we come together to share, listen, and learn with you. Thank for joining us.

In peace and friendship,
Laura Arndt, Secretariat Lead,
Board of Directors and Staff



**SURVIVORS'
SECRETARIAT**

Photography & Videography: June 24 - 28, 2024

Photo, video, and audio recording occur throughout the Survivors Gathering for promotional use by Survivors' Secretariat. All attendees were asked to consent to the potential release and publication of photos and audio/video recordings by Survivors' Secretariat at registration.

This authorization includes, the right to publish your image on Survivors' Secretariat website, in our reports, promotional materials, fundraising materials, and any other Survivors' Secretariat publications. These images may appear in any of a wide variety of formats, including but not limited to print, broadcast, videotape, and electronic/online media.

If you do not wish to be recorded or photographed, please inform Secretariat staff at the registration/information table and you will be given instructions on how to proceed.

EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY

A Survivors' Secretariat staff member will be taking pictures throughout the event to be used for Survivors' Secretariat's promotional materials including but not limited to social media posts, posters, website images and in publications produced by the Survivors' Secretariat. Pynx Production will be recording the keynote and panel presentations happening in the Grand Ballroom each morning which will be live-streamed and posted to Survivors' Secretariat's Facebook page.

DOCUMENTARY FILMING

Survivors' Secretariat has commissioned Sandbay Entertainment to create a documentary about the process to Uncover, Document and Share the truth about what happened at the Mohawk Institute during its 140+ years of operation. A videography team will be attending the Gathering to capture background footage to be used in the documentary. Sandbay may also be seeking individual interviews; those wishing to participate should indicate their desire to Secretariat staff at the registration/information table.

PHOTOBOOTH IMAGES

BU Photobooth will set up throughout the gathering. The photobooth will be in the Gretzky Room on arrival day between 3-6 PM, with the primary goal to capture headshots of Survivors of the Mohawk Institute (MI) to be used for a gathering yearbook. Any MI Survivor who wishes to participate in the yearbook will be asked to complete a short questionnaire and will receive a sweatshirt for their participation. The photobooth will be set up each afternoon for Survivors and their guest to take photos with their peers. Survivors' Secretariat will receive a copy of these images at the end of the event. These images may appear in promotional material developed by Survivors' Secretariat.

Wellness & Cultural Supports: June 24 - 28, 2024

Wellness & Cultural Supports are available on-site throughout the Gathering. They will be wearing red vests and can be approached at any time for assistance. Due to the difficult nature of the topics, we encourage guests to access these supports. Private rooms are available on the second floor in Seminar Rooms 5,6,7 for private conversations. If you wish to speak to Wellness Support during the Gathering, you can call 1-888-597-1062.

SMUDGING

Smudging will take place throughout the event. Six Nations Land Based Healing will be on-site in addition to Wellness Supports to provide smudging in the Grand Ballroom and throughout the event. If you wish to smudge, please approach while the smudge is going around the room or visit the Sacred Fire.

LIQUID SMUDGE

Each guest was provided a Liquid Smudge Spray in their welcome bag upon arrival. The spray features either sweetgrass or sage. These medicines were harvested by Cynthina Tribe from Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. The spray was created specifically for guests of the Survivors Gathering as a way to help clear the mind and encourage positive energy.

SACRED FIRE

A Sacred Fire will be lit at the Survivors Gathering the morning of Tuesday, June 25 at the Sunrise Ceremony. The fire will be tended to until after dinner on Thursday, June 27. Refreshments and traditional medicines will be available at the fire throughout this time. Wellness supports and smudging will also be available.

SUNRISE CEREMONY

A Sunrise Ceremony will take place at the Sacred Fire each day of the Gathering. The ceremony will be conducted by Robert Kiyoshk (Tues), Grandmother Renne (Wed), and Sean Thompson (Thurs). Women are encouraged to wear a long skirt, if possible. Traditional medicines will be available to offer to the fire.

Additional Supports

The Hope for Wellness Help Line is available 24/7 toll free at [1-855-242-3310](tel:1-855-242-3310). The line offers immediate mental health counselling and crisis intervention to all Indigenous peoples in Canada.

The Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line ([1-866-925-4419](tel:1-866-925-4419)) is available 24 hours a day for anyone experiencing pain or distress as a result of their residential school experience.

“It’s no coincidence that four of the six letters in health are heal.”
— Ed Northstrum

Additional Gathering Information

Afternoon Programming

On Tuesday and Wednesday guests will be able to select which breakout session they would like to attend. Each day there are two 1-hour sessions. Guest can choose to attend a Workshop, Discussion Circle or visit the Information Fair. Sign up for these is not required.

Evening Entertainment

Survivors' Secretariat has planned a Strawberry Social on Arrival Day and will host Jack De Keyzer on Tuesday evening. On Wednesday and Thursday, guests will have the option to participate in an Open Mic Session in the Grand Ballroom or choose to have down time. Transportation to off-site entertainment will not be provided by Survivors' Secretariat.

Bell City Cabs - 519-759-1300 | EasyRide Taxi - 519-759-7800 | Brant Taxi - 888-710-8239

Wheelchair & Walker Support

There are 2 wheelchairs and 2 walkers available to assist guests to get around the Gathering. If you require mobility support please inform an event staff or call 1-888-597-1062 and someone will come to assist you.

Daily Questionnaires

A questionnaire will be handed out each day for guests to complete. You will receive a ballot into a daily draw for your participation. Questionnaires can also be accessed online or by scanning the QR code.



Wellness Support

We want to thank all of the organizations providing Wellness Support to our Gathering attendees. Nia:wen to Six Nations Crisis Hub, Six Nations Mental Health Team, Indigenous Primary Health Care Council, and Brantford Regional Indigenous Support Centre.



Information Fair Vendors **Partners of SS**



KNOW HISTORY HISTORICAL SERVICES

Know History is a historical services firm assisting Survivors' Secretariat to access and obtain records, documents, and images related to the Mohawk Institute's 140+ years of operation. Know History historical services will be available to scan documents, photos, and records for Survivors during the Information Fair. Stop by their booth to learn more about the document collection process and their work with the Survivors' Secretariat.



ANIMIKII INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY

Animikii is a values-driven Indigenous technology company with products and services focused on website and software development. Animikii has been hired by Survivors' Secretariat to create a searchable database for Survivors and impacted communities to access records pertaining to their families. The team will be on-site sharing access to their mock database for guests to navigate. Guests will have the opportunity to provide feedback to ensure the best possible database is created.



WOODLAND CULTURAL CENTRE (WCC)

The WCC serves to preserve, promote, and strengthen Indigenous language, culture, art, and history. Through their Save the Evidence Campaign, WCC has completed renovations to the Mohawk Institute and plans to conduct educational programming about the school's legacy. WCC leases 7 acres of the former Mohawk Institute and is seeking to deem the building as a National Historic Site.



SIX NATIONS TOURISM

Six Nations Tourism is department of Six Nations of the Grand River and is the operator of the Mohawk Chapel. Visit their booth to learn more about what Six Nations of the Grand River has to offer or attend the Mohawk Chapel Bus Tour on Thursday to learn more about the history of the Mohawk Chapel.

Agenda: Monday, June 24, 2024

Time	Activity	Location
2:00 PM	Survivors Gathering Lounge Opens	Gretzky Room
3:00 PM	Check-In and Registration Opens	Hotel Lobby
5:00 PM	Dinner	Grand Ballroom
6:00 PM	Strawberry Social	Grand Ballroom
9:00 PM	Survivors Lounge and Grand Ballroom Shuts Down	Gretzky Room Grand Ballroom

Survivors' Secretariat staff and volunteers will be wearing purple lanyards. They can be approached at any time to direct you to programming, assist you to get food/refreshments or to help you access wellness support.

You can visit the registration/information table or call **1-888-597-1062** throughout the Gathering to access event staff or wellness supports.



Afternoon Programming: **Monday, June 24**

CHECK-IN AND REGISTRATION OPENS

Survivors will begin to arrive at the hotel the evening of Monday, June 24. Survivors and their guests will be provided with a welcome bag, name tag and event t-shirt. Guests can check into their rooms or hang out in the Survivors' Lounge until dinner and the Strawberry Social begins.

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

MI SURVIVORS PHOTOBOOTH YEARBOOK

We will be creating a photobooth yearbook of all of the Mohawk Institute (MI) Survivors in attendance. MI Survivors will be asked to complete a questionnaire so the Secretariat and your peers can get to know you better. All MI Survivors will receive a sweatshirt for participating.

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

DINNER AT BEST WESTERN

There will be a buffet dinner on arrival day for Survivors and their support. Dinner will take place in the Grand Ballroom and will be preceded by a Strawberry Social.

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

SURVIVORS' LOUNGE

The Survivors' Lounge is a place for guests to meet and mingle. Coffee, tea, refreshments, and snacks will be available along with some tabletop activities. This room will also house the Information Fair which takes place in the afternoons Tuesday to Thursday.

3:00 PM - 9:00 PM

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

A Strawberry Social will take place the evening of arrival day. The social will feature a Big Drum led by Mark Sault and a jingle dress performance led by Val King. Strawberry juice and light refreshments will be available.

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Agenda: Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Time	Activity	Location
5:30 AM	Sunrise Ceremony	Behind Myra's Grill Patio Area
7:30-9:00 AM	Breakfast (use breakfast tickets received at check-in)	Myra's Grill (off hotel lobby)
9:00-9:30 AM	Welcome by David Moses, Emcee Thanksgiving Address by Rowan Smith Opening remarks by Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill, Six Nations of the Grand River	Grand Ballroom & SS Facebook Live Stream
9:30-10:30 AM	Keynote – How to Deal with Trauma & Grief Resulting from Indian Residential School: Brenda Reynolds	Grand Ballroom & SS Facebook Live Stream
10:30-11:30 AM	Wellness Break	Grand Ballroom
10:45-12:00 PM	Panel – Realities of Ground Search: Scott Hamilton, Ed Eastaugh, Tanya Hill-Montour	Grand Ballroom & SS Facebook Live Stream
12:00-12:30 PM	Q & A for Realities of Ground Search Panel Open Mic, if time allows	Grand Ballroom & SS Facebook Live Stream
12:30-1:30 PM	Lunch Buffet	Grand Ballroom
1:30-2:30 PM	Workshop Discussion Circle Survivors' Lounge Info Fair	Various Locations
2:30-3:00 PM	Wellness Break	Grand Ballroom
3:00-4:30 PM	Workshop Discussion Circle Survivors' Lounge Info Fair	Various Locations
4:30-5:00 PM	Wellness Break	Grand Ballroom
5:00-6:00 PM	Dinner Buffet	Grand Ballroom
6:30-8:30 PM	Evening Entertainment - Jack De Keyzer	Grand Ballroom
9:00 PM	Gathering Concludes for the Evening	Gretzky Room Grand Ballroom

Afternoon Programming: Tuesday, June 25

WORKSHOP - MEDICINE TEACHINGS WITH GAIL WHITLOW

Ancestral Voices Healing Centre, located in the heart of Six Nations, was manifested by Gail Whitlow through dreams, sacred journeys and ceremonies. She created the Centre as a way to offer tools to help families, communities, and those of all nations on their spiritual and healing path. Gail believes the journey we take as enlightened souls weaves a path of interconnectedness with all Creation.

1:30 PM & 3:00 PM

WORKSHOP - UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE IPHCC

The legacy of Indian Residential Schools has created a cycle of trauma for Survivors, their families, and their communities. Join us as we discuss the ways in which colonization and colonial policies have adversely impacted the health and wellbeing of Indigenous people, work with us to better understand the importance of traditional healing and practicing culture as medicine and learn how to implement trauma-informed and culturally safe approaches in our day to day lives.

1:30 PM & 3:00 PM

DISCUSSION CIRCLE A - GROUND SEARCH INVESTIGATION

This discussion circle will ask participants to share their perspectives on potential next steps for the investigation into unmarked burials at the Mohawk Institute. The session will explore some of the tough questions the Secretariat faces while conducting their ground search investigation.

1:30 PM & 3:00 PM

DISCUSSION CIRCLE B - MOHAWK INSTITUTE USE OF GROUNDS

This discussion circle will ask participants to share how the former grounds (Mohawk Institute and Mohawk Chapel) were used while they attended the Institute. The groups will be divided between the boy's side and girl's side. The groups will be shown maps of the area and will ask participants to comment on the use of the grounds during their time at the institute while sharing their memories of their time spent there.

1:30 PM & 3:00 PM

INFORMATION FAIR IN THE SURVIVORS' LOUNGE

The Information Fair will feature booths from Survivors' Secretariat's internal departments and from partnered organizations. Guests can browse the room, ask staff specific questions or participate in document scanning or database testing. The Information Fair will be open in the afternoons Tuesday to Thursday. Guests can attend during wellness breaks or in lieu of a Workshop or Discussion Circle.

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

ENTERTAINMENT BY JACK DE KEYZER

Jack de Keyzer is a British-born Canadian blues guitarist, vocalist, songwriter and producer. He has won two Juno Awards, Canada's highest musical honour, and has received the Maple Blues Award seven times, including for Blues Album of the Year in 2000 and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001.

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Agenda: Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Time	Activity	Location
5:30 AM	Sunrise Ceremony	Behind Myra's Grill Patio Area
7:30-9:00 AM	Breakfast (use breakfast tickets received at check-in)	Myra's Grill (off hotel lobby)
9:00-9:15 AM	Welcome by David Moses, Emcee Opening Prayer by Jennie Blackbird Opening remarks by Chief Claire Sault, Mississaugas of the Credit	Grand Ballroom & SS Facebook Live Stream
9:15-9:45 AM	Keynote – Survivor Sherlene Bomberly Shares Her Wellness Journey	Grand Ballroom & SS Facebook Live Stream
9:45-10:30 AM	Keynote – Options for Commemoration Laura Arndt, Secretariat Lead	Grand Ballroom & SS Facebook Live Stream
10:30-10:45 AM	Wellness Break	Grand Ballroom
10:45-12:00PM	Panel - Rites of Passage Ceremonies: Eddie Thomas, Haudenosaunee Darrell Boissoneau, Cree/Ojibwe Pastor Phil Sault, Church Perspectives	Grand Ballroom & SS Facebook Live Stream
12:00-12:30 PM	Q & A Rites of Passage Ceremonies Panel Open Mic, if time allows	Grand Ballroom & SS Facebook Live Stream
12:30-1:30 PM	Lunch Buffet	Grand Ballroom
1:30-2:30 PM	Workshop Discussion Circle Info Fair	Various Locations
2:30-3:00 PM	Wellness Break	Grand Ballroom
3:00-4:30 PM	Workshop Discussion Circle Info Fair	Various Locations
4:30-5:00 PM	Wellness Break	Grand Ballroom
5:00-6:00 PM	Dinner Buffet	Grand Ballroom
6:30-6:45 PM	Group Photo	Grand Ballroom
6:45-8:30 PM	Music Sharing Free Time	Grand Ballroom
9:00 PM	Gathering Concludes for the Evening	Gretzky Room Grand Ballroom

Afternoon Programming: **Wednesday, June 26**

WORKSHOP - HEALING AND WELLNESS FOR MEN WITH EDDIE THOMAS

Eddie Thomas has been taught by our Elders from a young age (5) to sing social dance and ceremonial songs. Now he shares these songs with others to aid them in their healing journeys. Workshop participants will use rattles and water drums as Eddie shares how these songs can help men further their healing and wellness.

1:30 PM & 3:00 PM

WORKSHOP - HEALING AND WELLNESS FOR WOMEN WITH RENEE THOMAS

Grandmother Renee is of the Mohawk Nation Turtle Clan from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. As a Haudenosaunee Woman, she is responsible to carry on the teachings of "Our" Way of Life. Grandmother Renee will share her knowledge with workshop attendees on how women can further their healing and wellness journeys.

1:30 PM & 3:00 PM

WORKSHOP - MEANINGFUL IMAGE MAKING WITH KAIA'TANÓ:RON BUSH

Build and nurture your visual identity using intuitive illustration techniques and mindfulness, guided by professional Illustrator Kaia'tanó:ron Dumoulin Bush. Kaia'tanó:ron is an Onkwehonwe/French-Canadian illustrator and visual artist from Oshahrhè'on* (Chateauguay), Quebec. She is currently working on a series of images for Survivors' Secretariat that will help shape our new visual identity.

1:30 PM & 3:00 PM

DISCUSSION CIRCLE C - PHYSICAL COMMEMORATION

This discussion circle will ask participants to engage in conversation about physical commemorative activities, including physical monuments, as well as the preservation of records and documents in an online database. Circle discussions will ask about access to information and consent. It will also ask participants to share their thoughts about commemoration in place.

1:30 PM & 3:00 PM

DISCUSSION CIRCLE D - SPIRITUAL COMMEMORATION

This discussion circle will ask participants about the role of ceremony and spiritual activities that must be embedded in all aspects of our work with and for the children and the Survivors. The Mohawk Institute is a space of many nations. Children were taken from 60+ communities with distinct practices, customs, traditions and languages. This circle will ask participants how we can honour all of their spiritual beliefs.

1:30 PM & 3:00 PM

INFORMATION FAIR IN THE SURVIVORS' LOUNGE

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1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Agenda: Thursday, June 27, 2024

Time	Activity		Location
5:30 AM	Sunrise Ceremony		Behind Myra's Grill Patio Area
7:30-9:00 AM	Breakfast (use breakfast tickets provided to you at check-in)		Myra's Grill (off hotel lobby)
9:00-9:30 AM	Welcome by MC, David Moses Thanksgiving Address, I.L. Thomas Immersion Kindergarten Class Opening remarks by Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum, Nishnawbe Aski Nation		Grand Ballroom & SS Facebook Live Stream
9:30-10:30 AM	Keynote – Human Rights Implications of Ground Search: Bev Jacobs, Survivors' Secretariat Human Rights Monitor		Grand Ballroom & SS Facebook Live Stream
10:30-10:45 AM	Wellness Break		Grand Ballroom
10:45-12:00 PM	Presentations- What We Heard in the Discussion Circles: Youth Reclaiming Our Role Summer Students		Grand Ballroom & SS Facebook Live Stream
12:30 PM	Lunch Buffet		Grand Ballroom
1:30 - 4:00 PM	Activity Arrowhead Making	Bus Tour to Mohawk Chapel	Grand Ballroom Mohawk Chapel
4:30 PM	Wellness Break		Grand Ballroom
5:00 PM	Dinner Buffet		Grand Ballroom
6:00 PM	Open Mic Free Time		Grand Ballroom
9:00 PM	Gathering Concludes		All Rooms Close

Afternoon Programming: Thursday, June 27

ARROWHEAD MAKING WITH COLE THISTLE

Cole Thistle will guide participants to make their own arrowheads. Cole has a personal connection to stone working, as a Mohawk or “People of the Flint.” Cole has a great deal of appreciation for this artform as he believes this traditional skill has been somewhat lost in our culture over the years. Participants will be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), tools made of antlers and a piece of flint to craft their own arrowheads using materials from the earth.

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

BUS TOUR TO MOHAWK CHAPEL WITH SIX NATIONS TOURISM

The Mohawk Chapel is the oldest surviving church building, and the first protestant church in Upper Canada (now Ontario). The chapel was built by the British Crown in 1785 as a gift to the Mohawks who, under Joseph Brant, supported the British during the American Revolution. For a significant time period, the church was used exclusively by the students of the Mohawk Institute. The chapel was designated as a National Historic Site in 1981 and is now operated by Six Nations Tourism.

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

INFORMATION FAIR IN THE SURVIVORS' LOUNGE

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1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

OPEN MIC - REFLECTING ON GATHERING AND YOUTH PRESENTATIONS

On our final day of the Gathering guests will have time to share any final comments they may have including any additional thoughts they had about the Discussion Circles or the “What They Heard” presentation made by the youth that morning.

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM







This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



@survivorssecretariat



SURVIVORS' SECRETARIAT

Bringing Our Children Home

Document.

Uncover.

Share.

www.survivorssecretariat.ca