

Kingsland Haysboro Indigenous Friendship Day NEEDS YOU!!!!

To paraphrase Robert De Niro in Taxi Driver, “Am I talking to you? Am I talking to you?” Yes, I’m talking to you.

A small group of us (Bill Judd, Mark Rowe, Judy Bridgemohan, Jarrett Hoefling, Rev. Laurie and Peter Coutts) have been working away for about 18 months moving the idea of an Indigenous Friendship Day into being. It’s now about four weeks away. Now we really, really, really need your help! REALLY!!

We hope and expect to see several hundred people attend the event. The Moderator of The Presbyterian Church in Canada will be there. Our partner—Brown Bear Women Events, from the Tsuut’ina Nation—will provide much of the activities. The Province of Alberta, the City of Calgary, the Calgary Foundation and our own Presbyterian Church in Canada are supporting us by providing funding and the location for the event (free—the old YMCA lot). We have Pemmican (Buffalo and Blueberry) coming from the Wabasca Bigstone Cree Nation north of Slave Lake. You can try your hand setting up a tipi. Play traditional indigenous games, for kids young and old. Do a beading craft. Have lunch—Stew and Bannock—it’s free! Join in a Circle Dance. Oh, and kids crafts too.

Managing this crowd and coordinating all the offerings does take a bunch of people. Actually, more than a bunch. Here are some of the ways YOU can help.

BEFORE Saturday 28 September:

- Help us assemble a few hundred craft kits for beading. That will happen Wednesday, September 11 at 7 PM in the Karl English Lounge. With enough help that should only take an hour!
- The location: pro’s will be setting up the tents, but we will need some help arranging things around the site so all is ready to go Saturday morning.
- Baking Bannock: we plan to hold two opportunities in the days before the event for people to learn how to make Bannock...and then make Bannock! We will have an Indigenous person leading the way.
- Preparing Stew: How big a crowd have you cooked for? (As they say in the Olympics) Do you want to set a new personal best? We will need cooks cooks cooks!
- Security: we need a few people to ensure no one walks off with one of the 600 square foot tents before the day, and to ensure those doing the beading craft on Saturday don’t get out of hand.

ON Saturday 28 September:

- General helpers for such things as being runners, being personal hosts for our Indigenous guests, getting food from the kitchen to the event site, and yes: collecting garbage (sorry, but you know, pretty necessary)
- And more cooks who will heat up and prep the food for service.

AFTER Saturday 28 September:

- Site cleanup: the City wants their land returned to them neat and tidy
- Maybe some packing away of some tables and chairs.... (we’ll see)

Do not ask yourself, “do they have enough volunteers yet?” The answer will always be “no”, so go now and sign up to help! You can do this Sunday mornings, or right now via the congregational website:

www.standrewscalgary.ca/ifd

We are calling this the **Kingsland Haysboro Indigenous Friendship Day**. This event is an expression of our mission statement: “Woven into the neighbourhood, growing disciples who love like Jesus.” The national 2021 census revealed that about 600 indigenous persons live in these two neighbourhoods. We hope this day will bring people of different cultural backgrounds together to grow in their understanding and appreciation of Indigenous culture, and perhaps make a few new acquaintances or even a new friend.

If you have any questions or comments, you can be in touch with me: peter@coutts.name

Looking forward to seeing you as a part of this amazing day!

Peter Coutts
Minister in Association

