

CONFERENCE

SPIRITUALITY OF THE FIRST PEOPLES OF NORTH AMERICA

Hailing from a circular matrilineal society, the Wendat women have been brought up with an intricate comprehension of the Sacred Circle, culture, and spiritual development; aspects which are at the forefront of Wendat women's education.

From past to present, our mothers and grandmothers have transmitted to us our history as it has been told by our elders. Today still, they insist that we pass this knowledge on to our future generations. This is our Mission.

By these conferences, we wish to convey to audiences of all nations our ancestral values in hopes to trigger within them, an awareness at a spiritual level and a certain understanding of our circular view of the world we live in. Thus enabling them to embark on a healing journey.

NECESSITY there is, to reclaim and re-transmit the teachings and lessons of our grandmothers, grandfathers and elders.

OBLIGATION there is, to support and maintain our traditions & rituals that we hold so dear as to become the new knowledge keepers for the sake of our territory and of our future generations.

Every aspect of creation tells the story of our territory; the earth, the waters, the stones, the air, fire & light, the sky, the stars as well as our powerful allies: the Spirits.

Scattered all over the world, are many books relating the linear vision of the Western peoples. But how many few books explain and describe First Nations people's vision?

We state with a smile firmly planted between our lips that Indians come from way back when.

In the not so distant past, female & male functions played a capital role in the survival of the species. Men used to negotiate the territory and organize it for cultivation. They used to build longhouses for their women and their sisters. And they of course went hunting & fishing and built relationships of trust with their brothers from neighbouring nations.

As for women, they gave life to the nation's children and to the earth. They planted and harvested tobacco, sunflowers, squash, beans and maize for sustenance. They also transmitted culture and herbal medicine knowledge as well as preparing the hides and preparing the food for both spirit & body.

In Native circular and matrilineal society, this collaboration between the sexes was key to the survival of the community as a whole.

HERE ARE FOUR THEMES THAT ARE COVERED WITHIN OUR CONFERENCES.

1. Healing induced by the beating of the sacred chief Drum, which is also the beating of our Mother's heart.

Thus four heartbeats unite as the sacred Drum plays: the heart of our animal brothers & sisters, the heart of our allies the plants & trees, the human heart and the heart of our Mother, the Earth.

Sacred ceremonial tobacco is offered upon the sacred Drum to thank the Creator for hearing our prayers of self-healing and for his assistance in the healing of our loved ones.

2. Circular matrilineal traditions & vision.

This part of the conference describes the traditional role played by women in the great Wendat Confederacy. It brings to light how women bring their Nation into a state of balance and how they greatly contribute to the healing of their community's sufferings.

3. Past and Present Women.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, Iroquoian women are realizing that they have forgotten their circular vision and have replaced it with a western way of life. Women and their children are all grown up now but something seems to be missing; something important, almost intangible. It is their culture and their connection to the Great Spirit which is amiss. All of our grandmothers have lost much of their vision & dreams. Today, their children and grandchildren are struggling to find their identity. It is time to look to the past to commence our healing of today's suffering so to be able to ensure the blossoming of our seven future generations

4. Our Mother Earth, the guardian of Universal Health.

With each day that goes by, we can observe the distress in which our Mother is caught. Every day we can hear the messages she sends us: tsunamis, earthquakes, floods, super storms and many others that we can't even decipher. The sacred Drum's mission reminds us of the urgency to take action and to enlighten our thoughts & spirits; to encourage awareness in those of our Brothers & Sisters from all nations. If we are to restore balance that our Mother now so desperately seeks, if we are to alleviate the plagues that haunt us such as diseases violence, stress, drugs and the damage done to our MOTHER, we must take it upon us to realize these endeavours.

LOGISTICS

Within our conferences, there are four sacred elements that represent the four directions in which the healing messages must be heard: the Sacred Circle, women, the sacred chief Drum and of course, our Mother Earth.

All these elements are intricately related.

We propose to you, the following logistics:

Each conference lasts anywhere from an hour and a half to three hours. Each conference surveys one of the proposed themes. Additional periods of time can be scheduled to introduce and explain other themes one by one.

Each conference is based on an interactive process between the attendees and the lecturer(s).

It is important to note that the sacred Drum accompanies the lecturer(s) in order to spread the prayers and healing demands in the Universe.

Each conference begins with a purification ritual accomplished with sacred herbs and the Eagle feather. It is then followed up with the Indian's Prayer. A tobacco ritual may be accomplished depending on the promoter's intent and regulations in place. A Sharing Circle with a talking stick may also be part of the program as well as a period of questions towards the end of the conference.

Depending on the intent of the promoters, it is possible to include a performance by the group Andicha n'de Wendat of approximately thirty minutes.

Do not hesitate to consult our website for additional information at:

www.tambourdesfemmes.com

or:

You can contact Diane Andicha Picard directly at:

info@tambourdesfemmes.com

It will be our pleasure to answer any questions you may have regarding our conferences and other services.

SKENNON,
Peace & serenity

Diane Andicha Picard
Sacred chief Drum Keeper,
Lecturer