

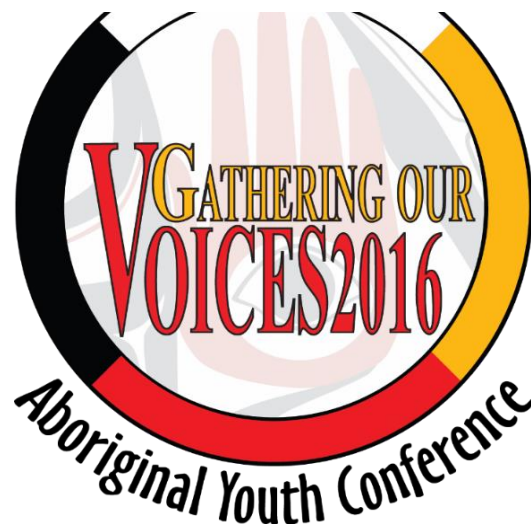


BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
and
Victoria Native Friendship Centre
are proud to host:

Gathering Our Voices

National Aboriginal Youth Conference

Victoria, British Columbia
March 21-24, 2016
Victoria Conference Centre



REGISTRATION PACKAGE

Registration Process

To register for Gathering Our Voices please complete the online registration form at: <https://gatheringourvoices.bcaafc.com/>

** To simplify the registration process, please ensure that you have the first and last names, birthdates, emergency contact information and any allergies for everyone you are registering before starting the electronic registration process.*

If you are unable to register electronically, please contact our office for other registration options.

Important

- This year's conference is on a **first come first served basis**, due to limited space available. Conference capacity will be capped at 1500 youth, please ensure you register as soon as possible to ensure your space at the conference. If the Conference reaches capacity before the event, there will be no onsite registration.
- To be officially registered, we must receive your completed registration and your registration fee. Once your fee has been received, we will provide registration confirmation.
- For every five youth registered (aged 14-17 years) there must be one chaperone.
- All chaperones must register for the conference, and **must** be 21 years of age or older.

Workshop registration will begin early February 2016.

Registration Information

\$125.00 Early Registration Fee

Until February 5, 2016

\$175.00 Regular Registration Fee

February 6, 2016 until all delegate spots are filled.

*Group registration incentive – for every group of 5 registered, the 6th registrant is FREE!

Payment Option #1 by PayPal

When registering online have credit card information ready to process a PayPal payment.

Payment Option #2 By Cheque or Money Order

Make Cheque or money order payable to BCAAFC
Mail payment to: BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
Attn: Gathering Our Voices
551 Chatham Street Victoria, BC V8T 1E1

Payment Option #3 VISA or MasterCard only

Please call the BCAAFC at 1-800-990-2432, and ask for the Registration Coordinator

For Further Information Please Contact

Della Preston, Conference Coordinator
BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
E-mail: govcoordinator@bcaafc.com
Phone: 250-388-5522
Toll Free: 1-800-990-2432
Fax: 250-388-5502

Accommodations

This year the conference is being held at the Victoria Conference Centre and other venues around the city. Please note that youth delegates and chaperones are responsible for securing their own accommodations. A listing of accommodations in the city is on page 4. Please reserve your rooms as soon as possible as accommodations will fill quickly.

Meals

Delegates will be provided with the following meals:

Monday, March 21st : Dinner

Tuesday, March 22nd: Breakfast and Lunch

Wednesday, March 23rd: Breakfast and Lunch

Workshops

Workshop descriptions will be available early February 2016 at:

<http://gatheringourvoices.bcaafc.com>

Conference Code of Conduct

In completing your registration form, it is duly accepted that you have read and understood the Conference Code of Conduct and will be expected to honour this code at the conference.

You are a Representative of your Community

Your personal conduct, both in and out of the conference, reflects upon your community and it is your responsibility to safeguard the reputation and pride of all Aboriginal people.

It's a Matter of Respect

You are a guest and you can go a long way towards ensuring yourself and the other delegates a warm and memorable welcome through a simple show of respect.

- Respect for all the participants of the conference.
- Respect for the social/cultural values of youth from other communities.
- Respect for regulations and standards set by the organizing body and host community.
- Respect for people of the host organization (staff, volunteers, guests, presenters, service personnel).

Curfew

We ask that ALL participants and chaperones respect the conference curfew of 11:30pm. Participants are asked to be at their accommodations by the curfew time.

Recreational Activities

In recreational activities, participants will represent their community with dignity, personal integrity, and spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play. Please bring proper clothing and shoes; personal equipment is optional.

Chaperone(s)

There must be one chaperone for every five participants ages 14 to 17 years and he/she is:

1. Must be 21 years of age or older.
2. Responsible for the safety, welfare and conduct of their youth at all times.
3. Expected to be a positive role model and set positive examples to all youth.
4. Expected to assist youth in locating workshops, arriving in a timely manner and ensuring youth remain in their workshops until the session is complete.
5. Be in attendance with their youth during all evening activities as there is a 'no re-entry' policy once performances begin. This includes opening night entertainment, the youth talent showcase and the Dance.

Disciplinary Policies and Procedures

THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY ZERO TOLERANCE FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY DELEGATES, CHAPERONES AND GUESTS.

- Smoking of tobacco and other products (including e-cigarettes) is prohibited on all premises and facilities. The exception to this policy is the cultural and ceremonial use of Aboriginal traditional medicines such as tobacco, sage, cedar, and sweet grass.
- Weapons brought into the conference sites and/or criminal activity of any kind will not be tolerated.
- Offenders of the Code of Conduct will have all privileges suspended, along with their group, and will be asked to leave the conference.

Conference Agenda at a Glance

This agenda is subject to change. A revised agenda will be distributed at the conference.

Monday, March 21, 2016					*VCC, Victoria Conference Centre	
10:00am	-	4:00pm	Conference Registration			VCC
5:00pm	-	6:00pm	Doors Open			VCC
6:00pm	-	7:30pm	Opening Ceremonies			VCC
7:30pm	-	8:30pm	Reception			VCC
Tuesday, March 22, 2016						
7:00am	-	8:30am	Breakfast Provided			VCC
9:00am	-	5:00pm	Career and Education Fair Open			VCC
9:00am	-	12:30pm	Workshops – Session 1 (3h) (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)	OR	Workshops – Session 2 (9:00 am - 10:30 am)* Workshops – Session 3 (11:00 am - 12:30 pm)	Various Locations
12:00pm	-	1:30pm	Lunch Provided			VCC
1:30pm	-	5:00pm	Workshops – Session 4 (3h) (1:30 pm – 4:30 pm)	OR	Workshops – Session 5 (1:30 pm - 3:00 pm)* Workshops – Session 6 (3:30 pm - 5:00 pm)	Various Locations
4:30pm	-	8:00pm	Dinner – Delegates on their own			
8:00pm	-	10:30pm	Youth Talent Showcase - <i>doors open at 7:00 pm</i>			VCC
Wednesday, March 23, 2016						
7:00am	-	8:30am	Breakfast Provided			VCC
9:00am	-	5:00pm	Career and Education Fair Open			VCC
9:00am	-	12:30pm	Workshops - Session 7 (3h) (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)	OR	Workshops – Session 8 (9:00 am - 10:30 am)* Workshops – Session 9 (11:00 am - 12:30 pm)	Various Locations
12:00pm	-	1:30pm	Lunch Provided			VCC
1:30pm	-	5:00pm	Workshops - Session 10 (3h) (1:30 pm – 4:30 pm)	OR	Workshops – Session 11 (1:30 pm - 3:00 pm)* Workshops – Session 12 (3:30 pm - 5:00 pm)	Various Locations
4:30pm	-	8:00pm	Dinner – Delegates on their own			
7:00pm	-	11:00pm	Youth Dance Party - <i>doors open at 7:00 pm</i>			VCC
7:45pm	-	8:30pm	Live Performance			VCC
Thursday, March 24, 2016						
			Breakfast – Delegates on their own			
9:00am	-	12:00pm	Cultural Morning Closing Plenary			VCC

* Indicates that there will be a 30 minute break in between the 1.5 hour workshops.

Victoria Hotel and Motel Accommodations

The following is a list of some hotels in the city of Victoria. Some have provided a special/off season/discount rate. Rooms are available on a first come basis and are subject to taxes. Please book as soon as possible as accommodation will fill quickly. When contacting each hotel, please make sure to ask first if they are supplying a special rate for the conference and make sure you are getting that rate. Some hotels require a code or a special name for the discount, so be sure to quote if one is listed below. For a list of other accommodation options in Victoria and more information and city maps check out: <http://www.tourismvictoria.com/>

Hotel Grand Pacific

463 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1X3
Phone: 1-800-663-7550 or 250-386-0450
Email: reserve@hotelgrandpacific.com
Website: www.hotelgrandpacific.com
Rates: Victoria and Grand Rooms \$129.00 + Tax or Pacific Rooms (Harbour View) or Victoria One bedroom suite \$169.00 + Tax
Rates available until: February 20, 2016
Reservation Code: Gathering Our Voices
Amenities: complimentary Wi-Fi
Distance from main Conference Site: 450 m

Victoria Marriott Inner Harbour

728 Humboldt Street, Victoria BC V8W 3Z5
Phone: 1-877-333-8338
Email: c.koohtow@victoriamarriott.com
Website: <http://www.marriottvictoria.com/>
Rates: Single \$149.00; Double \$149.00; Triple \$179.00; Quad \$209.00
Rates Available Until: based on availability
Reservation Code: Gathering Voices
Amenities: complimentary Wi-Fi
Distance from main Conference Site: 300 m

Coast Victoria Harbourside Hotel & Marina

146 Kingston Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1V4
Phone: 250.360.1211 or 1.800.663.1144 Fax: 250-360-1418
Email: coastvictoria@coasthotel.com
Website: <http://www.coasthotels.com/hotels/bc/victoria/coast-victoria-harbourside-hotel-and-marina/>
Rates: comfort city view \$90.00; superior room \$110.00; Superior Harborview \$130.00
Rates Available Until: based on availability until Feb 21, 2016
Reservation Code: CVH-GFC7193
Amenities: Complimentary WIFI in all guestrooms; Continental breakfast included; Complimentary Indoor/outdoor heated pool, Jacuzzi, fitness centre; Blue Crab restaurant
Distance from main Conference Site: 1.1 km

Chateau Victoria Hotel & Suites

740 Burdett Avenue, Victoria, BC V8W 1B2
Phone: 250-382-4221 or 1-800-663-5891 Fax: 250-380-1950
E-mail: reservations@chateauvictoria.com
Website: www.chateauvictoria.com
Rates: traditional Room \$108.00; 1-bedroom suite \$127.00
Rates Available Until: April 21, 2016
Reservation Code: Voices2016
Amenities: All suites have small fridge, Suites have kitchenette units and full kitchen units; Indoor swimming pool, fitness room, whirlpool; Reduce rate for parking for all guests, complimentary internet for all guests; Complimentary shuttle for downtown core for all guest. One of "airport shuttle" scheduled stops.
Distance from main Conference Site: 350 m

Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort and Spa

100 Harbour Road, Victoria, BC V9A 0G1
Phone: 1-800-667-4677
Email: vic.reservations@deltahotels.com
Website: www.deltavictoria.com
Rates: mode(standard) \$139.00; Mode Deluxe \$179.00
Rates Available Until: March 21, 2016
Reservation Code: Gathering Our Voices
Amenities: Complimentary Hotel Shuttle Service & Parking, Internet; full spa; indoor pool, fitness centre
Distance from main Conference Site: 1.6 km

Harbour Towers Hotel & Suites

345 Quebec Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1W4
Phone: 250-385-2405 or 1-800-663-5896 Fax: 250-480-6593
E-mail: reservations.harbourtowers@silverbirchhotels.com
Website: www.harbourtowers.com
Rates: Standard room \$93.00; bachelor suite \$113.00; One bedroom \$158.00; two bedroom \$208.00;
Rates Available Until: February 5, 2016
Reservation Code: Gathering Our Voices
Amenities: Wi-Fi, local calls, and 1-800 access, in room coffee and tea, fitness centre, indoor pool, hot tub sauna
Distance from main Conference Site: 750 m

Inn at Laurel Point

680 Montreal Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1Z8

Phone: 1-800-663-7667 Fax: 1-250-386-8731

E-mail: reservations@laurelpoint.com

Website: www.laurelpoint.com

Rates: Laurel Wing Rooms either King or 2 Double Beds \$119.00 (double occupancy) \$25 for each additional guest, Erickson Wing Studio – King or 2 Queens \$169.00 (double occupancy) \$25.00 for each additional guest

Rates Available Until: based on availability at time of booking.

Reservation Code: Gathering our Voices or BCAAFC

Amenities: Wi-Fi, fitness center, pool, all rooms have private balconies

Distance from main Conference Site: 900 m

Parkside Hotel and Spa

810 Humboldt Street, Victoria, BC V8V 5B1

Phone: 250-590-8555

E-mail: reservations@parksidevictoria.com

Website: www.parksidevictoria.com

Rates: Deluxe on bedroom suite with one king or queen bed and one sofa bed – maximum 3 people \$109.00 + tax

Rates Available Until: February 9, 2016 at 5pm

Reservation Code: Gathering our Voices group rate

Amenities: all suites feature a fully equipped kitchen, balconies, and fireplaces, complimentary Wi-Fi, on-site parking \$15 + tax a night.

Distance from main Conference Site: 300 m

Travel Information

Drive BC Road Report: 1-800-550-4997

Website: <http://www.drivebc.ca/>

Tourism Victoria: 1-250-953-2033

Website: <http://www.tourismvictoria.com/>

Air service

Victoria Airport – YYJ

1640 Electra Blvd, Sidney, BC V8L 5V4

Phone: 250-953-7500

The airport is situated approximately 25KM (15.5 miles) north of Victoria.

Air Canada

Reservations & Tickets: 1-888-247-2262

Baggage Enquiries: 1-888-689-2247

Automated Flight Information: 1-888-422-7533

Cargo: 250-656-0231

Customer Relations

Horizon Air

General Enquiries: 1-800-252-7522

Island Express

General Enquiries: 1-888-856-6260

Orca Airways

General Enquiries: 1-888-359-6722

Pacific Coastal

General Enquiries: 250-655-6411

Toll Free: 1-800-663-2872

United Airlines Express

Customer Relations: 1-800-864-8331

WestJet

Reservations: 1-888-937-8538 (1-888-WESTJET)

Baggage Enquiries: 1-866-666-6224

Cargo: 1-866-852-2746 (1-866-WJCARGO)

TTY: 1-877-952-010

Ground Travel

Greyhound Bus Lines: 1-800-661-8747

Website: www.greyhound.ca

Rental cars

Avis: 1-800-879-2847

Website: <http://www.avis.com/car-rental/avisHome/home.ac>

Budget Rent A Car: 1-800-668-9833 or

Local: 250-953-5300

Website: <http://www.budgetvictoria.com/>

National Rentals: 1-800-227-7368 or

Local: 250-656-2541

Website: https://www.nationalcar.com/en_US/car-rental/home.html

Hertz: 1-800-263-0600

Website: <https://www.hertz.com/rentacar/reservation/>

Once in Victoria:

YYJ Airporter Shuttle: 778-351-4995 or 1-855-351-4995

Website: <http://www.yyjairportshuttle.com/>

Yellow Cab of Victoria: 250-381-2222 or 1-800-808-6881

Website: <http://www.yellowcabvictoria.com/>

Parking

Victoria Conference Centre: If you prefer or need to use a car, our Centre has a two-level underground parking garage for up to 310 vehicles, with access off Douglas Street.

The parkade is open from 5:00 a.m. until midnight 365 days of the year. During these hours there is an attendant on duty. After hours, the parkade is secured.

Rates are \$1.50/30 minutes up to a daily maximum of \$16. There is a height restriction of 6'2" (1.88 m).

Victoria Parkades:

<http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/departments/engineering/parking/parkades.html>

Chaperone Information Brief

General Overview of Conference:

The Gathering Our Voices National Aboriginal Youth Conference is hosted by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) and their Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council (BCAAFC - PAYC). The Conference will be held from March 21-24, 2016 in Victoria, BC at the Victoria Conference Centre and other venues.

Up to 1500 youth (14-24years) as well as chaperones, presenters and guests will network and learn new techniques and skills in workshops, share knowledge through cultural activities, witness performances by talented individuals, explore career and education possibilities and participate in sports and recreational activities.

Rules and Respect:

Please see the full conference code of conduct on page 2. Always remember that youth and chaperones must be respectful in every sense and that you are representing your communities to the best of your abilities.

What to Expect:

Expect to have a lot of fun, be active and learn a lot from the whole conference experience.

Responsibility of Chaperones:

Please make sure that your designated youth are with you **AT ALL TIMES** when not attending workshops. We request you do not simply drop off your youth at the conference site and leave them alone. **Note** that this applies to all evening activities, including the dance, where chaperones are expected to arrive and remain in attendance with their youth until the group leaves as a whole.

Victoria is one of BC's larger cities and it is important to keep a very close eye on your youth. We also want to make sure that the youth are going to the workshops and if they are not participating that they are with you.

You are responsible for your youth delegates at all times. Remember that you are a role model for the youth and should conduct yourself in a manner accordingly.

Speaking to Youth before Arrival at Conference:

We are asking all chaperones to please speak to their youth before arrival in Victoria and to review the code of conduct (page2). If you could please let your youth know what to expect at the conference, how to behave, how to be respectful, debrief on curfew, as well as rules and regulations that would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration and let's make the 14th Annual Gathering Our Voices Aboriginal Youth Conference run smoothly and go off without a hitch!

For Further Information please contact:

Della Preston, Youth Conference Coordinator
BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
E-mail: govcoordinator@bcaafc.com
Phone: 250-388-5522
Toll Free: 1-800-990-2432
Fax: 250-388-5502

Visit our website often for up-dates.

<http://gatheringourvoices.bcaafc.com>

There will be no alcohol and drug use tolerated by YOUTH or CHAPERONES at any time on your way to the conference, during the conference or on your way home from the conference. We are all trying to set a good example for our youth and promote healthy living in our communities.

This Registration Package contains valuable contact information.

We recommend you bring it with you when you come to Victoria.

Honour an Aboriginal Youth

The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres will recognize Aboriginal Youth Champions. If you know an Aboriginal youth (ages 14-24) who has made an outstanding commitment or achievement please nominate them to receive an Aboriginal Youth Champion award at the 2016 Gathering Our Voices Aboriginal Youth Conference.

For access to the full information package, and registration forms please visit:

<http://gatheringourvoices.bcaafc.com>

Youth Talent Showcase

- Youth must apply by March 4, 2016 and you will be called to confirm your performance in the showcase.
- Youth are required to attend the Showcase workshop Wednesday, March 22 in session 4.
- Youth are required to submit the mp3, CD or online link to the music they will use.
- Youth can submit a video presentation to support their application.
- Maximum performance time is 5 minutes.
- The following equipment is available – microphone, CD player, and piano. All other equipment is the responsibility of the youth entertainer.
- Deadline for Youth Talent Showcase Applications: March 4, 2016.
- Successful Performers Will Be Notified By March 11, 2016.
- The Youth Talent Showcase will be:
 - Victoria Conference Centre
 - 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
 - Tuesday, March 22, 2016.