



# Wazin Îchinabi Ti

## House of Oneness

Wazin Ichinabi Ti- House of Oneness Society, is respectfully requesting that the week of March 17-23, 2024 be proclaimed **Garhe Meheduwa (Cochrane) Indigenous Art & Culture week**.

Garhe Meheduwa is the Iyârhe Nakoda name for Cochrane and the name translates to “a deep gorge or cut”. In honor of the Iyârhe Nakoda language and the Iyârhe Nakoda traditional lands which The Town of Cochrane is situated on, we wish to have the Iyârhe Nakoda name used to represent Cochrane for this important event.

The intent of this week is to recognize and celebrate the richness of Indigenous Arts and Culture. In the spirit of reconciliation, collaboration, celebration, and friendship we look forward to honoring the Iyârhe Nakoda people, and the First Nations, Inuit and Metis people of this country. Our vision is to start with a modern grassroots event with activities driven by local and surrounding community members, groups and businesses who will showcase Indigenous Art and Culture in various mediums that will educate, provide opportunity, raise awareness, entertain, build bridges and make connections to name a few. This year, the week planned will entail a variety of mixed art media, performing arts, music, food, story-telling, and hands-on entertainment. The last day of the week, March 23, 2024, will be celebrated with a Round Dance, Family Dance, evening concert and dinner.

Currently there are approximately 5397 Iyârhe Nakoda living in Stoney Nakoda Nations (2021, Stoney Nakoda Nations) and 1465 residents identifying as Indigenous, Inuit and Metis in Cochrane (2021, Government of Alberta). Additionally, the Indigenous population percentage of Cochrane greatly increased, at 36.3% in the last five years (2021, Government of Alberta). We acknowledge that the Indigenous presence and culture in Cochrane is an honor.

**Whereas** Activities that celebrate and showcase the contributions towards Arts and Culture from the Indigenous people living in or around Cochrane supports the Call to Action # 61 for community-controlled healing and reconciliation projects, culture and language revitalization projects, education and relationship-building projects.

**Whereas** Art and Culture serve as a powerful means of expression for Indigenous people and communities, and Cochrane acknowledges that both contemporary and traditional forms of art and performance offer valuable storytelling opportunities that educate, entertain, and foster relationships across cultures and generations.

**Whereas** As part of the Town of Cochrane's commitment to supporting the diversity represented in our community's Art and Culture, the Town of Cochrane proudly announces the commencement of an annual tradition. Organized by the Wazin Ichniabi Ti Center – House of Oneness Society and supporting organizations, this week marks the beginning of ongoing activities dedicated to Indigenous Art and Culture.

**THEREFORE;** I, Mayor Genung of Cochrane, Alberta do hereby proclaim **March 17-23, 2024** as the first year for the annual **Garhe Meheduwa (Cochrane) Indigenous Art & Culture week.**

Dated on this day 26 of Feb, 2024

Signed 