

# 41st Annual BC Elders Gathering

July 11-13, 2017

“Wisdom & Knowledge”

Strathcona Gardens Recreation Complex, Campbell River, BC

Phone: 250-286-9977 (Please DO NOT fax forms)

Email: [bcelders@telus.net](mailto:bcelders@telus.net) Website: [www.bcelders.com](http://www.bcelders.com)

Please Mail Registration Form with Cheque to:

BC Elders Communication Center Society

1415 Weiwaikum Rd., Campbell River, BC, V9W 5W9

## Group and Individual Registration Instructions

**Health Concerns/Allergies: Group Leaders** are asked to make sure that **YOU** carry all relevant information about your elder's health with you and that you stay with your elder's group at all times during the event. In the past elders have been left by their workers, and that can't happen again especially as no one knows your elders needs better than you do, making it crucial that you are there with your group.

**And ALLERGIES** need to be addressed and managed via you and your elders, as the risk is way to high to leave in anyone else's hands, especially a host's or foods department who is dealing with thousands of people for multiple meals.

\*\*\*The menu will be published the month before in the Elders Voice so all groups can prepare alternate meal components should your elders not be able to eat what is being catered at the event due to a severe allergy.

**CHILDREN:** All Groups are advised that children are **NOT** invited to this event. Not only is there limited space for accommodations each year, this is an **Elder's** Gathering and it is hard enough for the elder's wheel chairs and walkers to get around sometimes without strollers, etc. in the path or kids taking up seating or eating food meant for elders.

\*\*\*We are planning for hundreds of thousands of dollars in food and beverages and desserts for 2017, however **ACCESS** to meals will be strictly for registered delegates **ONLY**, i.e. registered elders, registered support people, registered drivers, and vendors and info booth people, not people's family members that come along with them to the event. Unregistered people will not even be permitted into the 3 Arenas.

### **INDIVIDUAL NAMES ARE NO LONGER NEEDED ON THE GROUP REGISTRATION FORM:**

Usually Elder's names are required for group registration which causes huge time delays at **Group Check-in** when there has been an error in printing or someone's name tag has been misplaced. Group Leaders will now be given **blank name tags and sharpies** to write in their Elder's name and nation. Your Group Leader will just pick up the number of bags your group is registered for and be on their way, making Check-in much faster for everyone while not delaying the Grand Entry.

\*\*\***Only Individuals need to register by name and line-up at the Individual Registration Check-in Line at the event.**

**BANNERS AND FLAGS:** Group Leaders are encouraged to have a Banner made for their group. This is the way it was in the past and it makes the **ELDERS** extremely proud to enter behind their own Banner in the Grand Entry.

\*\*\***The Grand Entry will not be done alphabetically**, Groups will simply assemble behind their Banner/Flag and go in when their whole group is together. A photographer will be taking quick pictures of each group as you enter behind your flag or banner and these pictures will once again be on our website for you all to enjoy and copy for your elders.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Rather than having people from out-of-town volunteering for specific tasks or time slots, because it is completely impossible to know your elder's requirements that many months ahead of time, or when your support personnel will not be busy.

And because our volunteers will already be completely in place with orientation meetings having happened long before you all arrive...volunteering will be done differently in 2017.

What will happen instead is that any able bodied (already registered) support person, who wants to help out after a meal with the clearing of that meal (and can be spared from their group) will be asked to come forward by the MC. The MC will then direct the volunteers on where to assemble to receive quick instructions from the Volunteer Coordinator on what is needed at that time.

**BUS DRIVERS:** All Bus Drivers will be sent parking instructions the month before the event via the Group Leader's contact email address, **read receipts will be required back from all emails sent** so that we know everyone is getting their messages.

\*\*\***All drivers will be instructed to park before they drop off elders and unload walkers, wheelchairs and belongings.**

## **THE LUNCH for LANYARDS EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

**LUNCH ON THE LAST DAY, JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>, WILL BE TO-GO LUNCH ONLY BEGINNING AT 10 AM**

**LANYARDS – Beginning this year the lanyards/sharpies will be collected at the to-go lunch pick-up area.**

These Lanyards cost each host thousands of dollars every year with many being ultimately thrown away at some point. And if the sharpies could be collected as well at the same time it will also help the next host.

Starting in 2017, Group Leaders with their group's Lanyards, or individuals, will simply go to the lunch pick-up area, hand in the lanyard(s) with the plastic name card holder and get a bagged lunch and beverage in exchange for each.

With a little recycling effort we can ship them to the new host and re-use them for 2018, 2019, etc.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2017**

**REGISTRATION FEE (Per Person): \$135 (\$125 Reg. and \$10 Admin.)**

**LATE REGISTRATION FEE (AFTER MAY 15, 2017): \$185 per person (\$175 Reg. and \$10 Admin.)**

**CANCELLATION: The cancellation deadline for Registration AND the BINGOS will be June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 no fees will be returned after this date.**

**\*\*\*Though of course special consideration will be given if someone passes on and the elders need to stay home to support their community, speak to Donna Stirling personally about this if needed.**

**CONFIRMATION NUMBER: All Group Leaders will be **emailed** immediately upon receipt of their registration form and their group's cheque with a confirmation number that can be used if and when it becomes necessary to cancel.**

**BINGOS: THERE ARE A NUMBER OF LARGE BINGOS BEING ARRANGED RIGHT NOW THAT WILL HOPEFULLY ALLOW FOR HUNDREDS, AND HUNDREDS OF YOU TO PLAY BINGO.**

**\*\*\*GROUPS WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND 1 BINGO DURING THE EVENT.** Not all groups will get spots at the BINGOS, but we will do our very best to accommodate as many as possible.

**ALL GROUPS WILL BE CONTACTED IN THE SPRING WITH CONFIRMATION OF THEIR BEING REGISTERED FOR A BINGO AND ASKED TO SEND IN THE MONEY FOR THE BINGO PACKAGE BEFORE MAY 31, 2017.**

**THESE BINGOS WILL BE PUT ON BY FIRST NATIONS RECS OR LOCAL CHARITIES AND ARE PLANNED FOR the first night, July 10<sup>th</sup> and the afternoons of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at different locations.**

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**THE LOGO FOR THE 2017 - 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL BC ELDERS GATHERING IS YET TO BE DETERMINED. PLEASE WATCH IN UPCOMING ISSUES OF THE ELDERS VOICE FOR NEWS ON THIS.**

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**KING AND QUEEN: Any group interested in having the Reigning King and Queen, Allan and Edwina Henderson appear at their function is asked to contact Donna Stirling at [bcelders@telus.net](mailto:bcelders@telus.net) to check on availability.**