

43rd (2019) Annual Elder's Gathering

Dear Elders and Support People and All Nations,

Thank you for your patience while we sorted out plans for the 2019 Elders Gathering. The Dates and Venue are now set:

Dates: July 22 (early registration) Event: July 23, and 24, 2019

Location: The Vancouver Convention Centre

The 2019 King and Queen, as well as the Theme for 2019, will all come from suggestions from the hardworking organizations from the Downtown Eastside whose messages we will be endeavouring to feature in the coming year and at the 2019 Elders Gathering.

Please note the 3 levels of registration fees on the form and take advantage of the lower fees by paying sooner. Please note that registering online and paying online will not be available. It is safer to have registration done the old-fashioned way with form and cheque/stub or money orders being mailed in.

We looked into e-transfers and the fact is they can be deposited into anyone's account anywhere in the world and we don't want to start that process as it is a bad precedent to set. E-transfers are safe for people to use, but not an event that will be dealing with so many fees as the potential for abuse exists.

This event is going to be spectacular! It hasn't been back in Vancouver since 2007 when the Registration Fee first began. The fee's intent was, and still is, to cover the cost of Food for the Elders and Support Workers as it had been insufficient at Gatherings in some past years and elders had really suffered for it.

The fee is up considerably from 2007 for 2019. Just so that everyone knows the food will be \$300 per person and we have to budget separately for coffee and tea. We are not allowed our own food there, or our own people to serve and clear the meals for the elders. Everything is union and their staff is required to do all jobs. We will have 150 servers minimum to serve the 5 Star meals to you at tables of 10 and you will all be enjoying your meals together in a ballroom.

Elders have been asking for years and years to have the Gathering back in Vancouver, and the fact is it will cost a lot more than it did in 12 years ago, but we promise you all it will be worth it.

All of the Gathering will be on-site at the Vancouver Convention Centre. We will not be having tours as we will already be at an incredibly beautiful location. There is bus drop off only at the VCC and we will be working to locate a place for buses to park with a shuttle to bring drivers to the Vancouver Convention Centre.

Please note that 2 lunches and 2 dinners will be included at the event, but continental breakfast will not as it would have been almost \$100,000 extra per day. Many hotels include Continental Breakfast these days so just a heads-up on that before booking your rooms.

There will be the Pamper Me Centre again to get your hair and nails done, foot checks, cards read, palms read, a photo booth among other things. Vendors, Info Booths, Health Screening Centre, Nurse's Respite Centre, Workshops, and meals will all be on-site. You will have your Dance, Comedians and Guest Speaker and Karaoke with prizes!

On behalf of the BC Elders Communication Center's Board of Directors, and staff, we can't wait to have you experience the 2019 Elders Gathering, and we all look forward to seeing you there!!