

**To all Gichi-Anishinaabeg, Brother and Sisterhoods, and Friends of Sagkeeng:
On Mother Earth Day**

April 8-22, 2024

THE EIGHTH FIRE (PROPHECY) RUN

Aniin, Biindigen. For generations, the Seven Fires (prophecies) has guided the Anishinaabeg people, foretelling a time of great transition but also offering hope for spiritual renewal. As prophesied, we have now come to a fork in the road in the Seventh Fire (prophecy) for our Eighth Fire generations with one path leading to materialism-driven destruction, and the other towards eternal peace.

On April 8, 2024 at peak total solar eclipse over the First Fire settlement, Mooniyaang (Montreal), the Eighth Fire Prophecy Run to bring awareness to these paths began. By ceremonially dipping an eagle staff into the waters, we began an ancestral journey to retrace the path of our ancestors across Turtle Island. The purpose is to awaken this ancient prophecy so it becomes embedded in all our decisions, and helps guide our youth onto a prophesied path of eternal peace.

The Seven Fires (prophecies) describes how the Anishinaabeg migrated from the Great Salt Water (Atlantic Ocean), inland around the Great Lakes region, and settling around the Heart of Turtle Island (Riding Mountain National Park) to survive waves of colonization. Guided by a sacred Miigis shell, each stopping place became a Seven Fires settlement that aided in the survival of indigenous cultural traditions. These Seven Fires are: 1) Mooniyaang (Montreal), 2) Niagara Falls, 3) Walpole Island/Detroit, 4) Manitoulin Island, 5) Sault Ste. Marie, 6) Duluth, and 7) Madeline Island.

With the era of the Eighth Fire upon us, a need for an Eighth Fire settlement to save our cultural traditions was born. Located between the Seventh Fire and the Heart of Turtle Island, we humbly put forth Sagkeeng First Nation to be recognized as the Eighth Fire settlement. This vision is supported by the late Anishinaabe elder Dr. Dave Courchene Jr., who built a sacred Turtle Lodge in Sagkeeng in 2002. He foresaw it would “give birth” to a greater turtle lodge and a Village of Peace that would bring youth.

Gikendawmowin Inaabandan: A Prophecy Vision

“The vision Dave received was of a Turtle Lodge and a Village of Peace. At the heart of the village was a lodge, built in the shape of a turtle. Around the turtle lodge were four smaller turtle-shaped lodges in each of the four directions. People of every color were coming out of these lodges and walking toward the central lodge. Animals (predominantly horses and buffalo), people in a garden, and Elders talking and laughing around a fire were seen. An eagle circled in the sky above,” www.TurtleLodge.org

Niizh Gizis Gizisoon Anango’oding: Two Solar Eclipses

Over the next 120 years marked between two total solar eclipses, all indigenous nations of Turtle Island will come together and achieve this Eighth Fire settlement for our youth. The Eighth Fire Prophecy Run started at the First Eclipse:

- The First Eclipse: April 8, 2024 over Mooniyaang (First Fire)
- The Last Eclipse: October 26, 2144 over Sagkeeng (Eighth Fire)

Niizhwaaswi Ishkode: Eighth Fire

Establishing Sagkeeng as a sovereign indigenous-led Eighth Fire settlement is a path towards meaningful reconciliation for the injustices indigenous peoples have endured. As the Truth and Reconciliation Commission urged, equitable actions must be taken to rectify such harms. The unresolved historic injustices of the 1920s Pine Falls surrenders that saw Canada’s federal government commit direct and extreme action in Sagkeeng requires meaningful direct equitable action to undo such irreparable harms.

This opportunity for reconciliation will help build the Eighth Fire. Coincidentally, the shape of Pine Falls resembles a Miigis (shell) like those mentioned in the Seven Fires.

The proposed Grand Turtle Island Indigenous Museum (GTIIM) by indigenous youth will fulfill Dr. Dave Courchene Jr.'s prophesied vision and build this Eighth Fire. With GTIIM's large size used to accommodate the cultural, art, and histories of all Turtle Island nations, transforming all of Sagkeeng's architecture into an indigenous village will further create an immersive and awe-inspiring feel. GTIIM's turtle-shape and federal designation as a national museum both symbolizes truth and reconciliation. The cultural revitalization of this ancient natural gathering place will help the Eighth Fire generations uphold their traditions that will guide them onto a path of eternal peace.

To realize GTIIM and this prophesied Village of Peace, Sagkeeng welcomes all indigenous nations across Turtle Island to build homes for their youth, traditional learning spaces, and help lead the Eighth Fire as a sovereign settlement. Upholding our cultural lawmaking traditions that embed indigenous environmental sustainability beliefs is key for this Eighth Fire. Over 10,000 years, the cultural exchanges within this village will strengthen our nations, ways of life, and connections for the Eighth Fire youths.

This Eighth Fire settlement will be crucial for nurturing the never-ending generations of indigenous students who will be inspired to uphold our cultural traditions and ways of life (precepts). During challenging times when technologies fail, the Eighth Fire path will be heavily guided by their gifted cultural inheritance. The disrespect of our indigenous sovereignty today erodes this vision of peace and leads our Eighth Fire toward a path of destruction led by financially-driven corporations and materialism. Mother Earth's climate change emergency highlights these unsustainable paths.

Debwedaagozi: The Reckoning

Kelly Dale Edwards (Flying Wolf Man) spearheading the Eighth Fire Prophecy Run experienced a traumatic loss of his cultural dignity after an assault by City of Winnipeg's police service while under contract by Wal-Mart Canada in January 2023. Edwards who is a former grocery executive interprets the incident as a human rights violation and sought reconciliation but discovered unfair protections for police and

corporations. The injustice highlighted how even with perfect and good behavior, brazen police and protected corporations have become brave in their willful ignorance towards natural justice. This violates the indigenous precepts of the land that predates the arrival of colonial powers and corporations. Continuing this destructive path could continue to harm more indigenous peoples.

Sagkeeng elder Wilfred Clifford “Bull” Swampy (Circling Eagle) who witnessed the human rights violation of his grandson Kelly Dale Edwards (Flying Wolf Man) said the experience undid decades of reconciliation for him and had defying impacts that severely eroded his view of society. Reconciling indigenous and colonial precepts through lawmaking is now in the interest of natural justice and the Eighth Fire youths.

Regrettably, the Sagkeeng Chief & Council elected in April 2023 refused to meet with Edwards in August 2023 to support him in his pursuit for justice and reconciliation. When Chief & Council and collaborative private development corporation disregarded Sagkeeng’s own indigenous laws to unlawfully impose the First Nations Land Management Act (FNLMA) over the Naawi-Oodena joint reserve in October 2023, it highlighted how colonial laws were still subjugating indigenous authorities for economic purposes in modern times. This multidimensional fight against corporate interests echoes across all indigenous nations across Turtle Island.

Despite the urgings of Edwards who first proposed sovereign-led development of Naawi-Oodena in 2014, Sagkeeng Chief & Council and this private corporation pushed through the adoption of FNLMA without proper consultation mandated under Sagkeeng's Onakonigawin (Process Law). This violates our right to free, prior, and informed consent on laws governing our lands, as upheld by UNDRIP.

Furthermore, Sagkeeng Chief & Council’s closed-door negotiations for a Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) settlement revisits old injustices by failing to adhere to Onakonigawin (Process Law) which outlines meaningful consultation and meaningful incorporates band member input. Adding insult, they now propose investing into the nuclear industry. This brazen disregard for indigenous values and laws combined with materialistically-driven interests will steer the destiny of the Eighth Fire towards a path of destruction. The antidote is respecting and upholding indigenous laws.

Inaabandan Bwaanaawidiwining: Vision For Peace

We can no longer allow corporate interests protected by colonial authorities to drive our Eighth Fire generation youths down a path of destruction as foretold in the Seven Fires. Too many times have our sovereign rights and ancestral laws been trampled in the pursuit of materialistic greed at the expense of our cultural survival.

From the craven land surrenders in the 1920s to build Pine Falls to the 2023 FNLMA ratification over Naawi-Oodena, and the modern-day suppression of our lawmaking sovereignty by our own internal leaders—we have witnessed a cycle of injustice enabled by the willful ignorance of our indigenous sovereignty. Even as we seek meaningful reconciliation through equitable actions like the Grand Turtle Island Indigenous Museum (GTIIM), *bad actors* subvert the process for their own gain.

But we will not allow such affronts to continue as these ramifications will echo across all of Turtle Island nations. Our youth deserve to control their destiny guided by the wisdom of their ancestors, not the whims of the colonizer mindset that continually disregards indigenous sovereignty. The time has come to build this prophesied Village of Peace in the Eighth Fire (Sagkeeng) where all nations gather as equals on sovereign land in the interest of eternal peace. This epicenter for cultural exchange and learning will grow in sacredness with age over thousands of years.

As part of the Eighth Fire Prophecy Run, we call on all Gichi-Anishinaabeg and our Brothers and Sisters from every nation across Turtle Island to rise up and assert indigenous sovereignty together as an *Eighth Fire Alliance* that seeks to uphold natural justice, indigenous sovereignty, and revitalize our cultural lawmaking traditions.

We must take back control of our lawmaking process, our ways of life, and enshrine our indigenous laws as the supreme authority governing our lands and people. It is our birthright and our only hope for realizing the prophecy's path of eternal peace. This paradigm of colonial subjugation led by corporate interests ends now. We must stand strong and united as one Turtle Island family. Awaken! The time for the Eighth Fire has arrived and protect this path to eternal peace using our gifted cultural traditions. Join the Eighth Fire Prophecy Run to establish Sagkeeng as the Eighth Fire.



Inendaagwad Bimaadiziwin Minaawa Bakaan Mikunan:
A Certain Way of Good Life & Peace to Path (Our Route)

The Eighth Fire Prophecy Run will pass through as many indigenous communities along the way spanning ~10,000 km across Turtle Island at a pace of 100 km per day. All youth along the route are invited to join us and honorably help carry the eagle staff across Turtle Island with us.

NOTE: If you do not see your community’s name on this list, please reach out and invite us to come your way by emailing us at GTIIM2024@gmail.com (Updated 4/22/2024)

LEG 1 ì 1st Fire

- 1 Bonavista, NL
- 2 Channel-port-aux-Basques, NL
- 3 North Sydney, NS
- 4 Membertou
- 5 Eskasoni
- 6 Wagmatcook
- 7 Paqtnkek-Niktuek
- 8 Pictou Landing

- 9 Caribou, NS
- 10 Wood Islands, PEI
- 11 Charlottetown
- 12 Moncton, NB
- 13 Soegao
- 14 Oromocto
- 15 Fredericton, NB
- 16 Kingsclear
- 17 Woodstock FN
- 18 Tobique FN

- 19 Madawaska
Maliseet
- 20 Whitworth
- 21 Quebec City, QC
- 22 Trois Rivieres
- 23 Mooniyaang
(Montreal)

LEG 2 ì 2nd Fire

- 24 Kahnawake
- 25 Kanesatake

26 Ottawa, ON
27 Tyendinaga
28 Alderville FN
29 Hiawatha
30 Toronto
31 Hamilton
32 Six Nations
33 Mississaugas
of the Credit

LEG 3 ĩ 3rd Fire

34 Niagara Fall
35 London, ON
36 Chippewas
of the Thames
37 Moravian
38 Windsor, ON
39 Detroit, MI
40 Walpole Island

LEG 4 ĩ 4th Fire

41 Aamjiwnaang FN
42 Kettle Point
43 Goderich
44 Saugeen FN
45 Neyaashiinigiing
46 Cape Croker
47 Barrie
48 Chippewas of
Rama FN
49 Mnjikaning

50 Wahta Mohawk
Territory
51 Parry Island FN
52 Shawanaga
53 Naiscoutaing
54 Magnetawan
55 Henvey Inlet FN
56 French River
57 Sudbury, ON
58 Whitefish FN
59 Whitefish River
60 Sheguiandah
61 Wikwemikong

LEG 5 ĩ 5th Fire

62 Sheshegwaning
63 M'Chigeeng
64 Sagamok FN
65 Serpent River
66 Mississagi River
67 Thessalon FN
68 Garden River
69 Sault Ste. Marie

LEG 6 ĩ 6th Fire

70 Agawa Bay, ON
71 Michipicoten FN
72 Pic Mobert
73 Pawghwasheeng
74 Helen Lake R
75 Thunder Bay
76 Fort William FN

77 Neebing
78 Grand Portage
79 Red Rock, MN
80 Morgan Park,
Duluth, MN

LEG 7 ĩ 7th Fire

81 Apostle Islands
National Lakeshore
82 Red Cliff Band
83 Madeline Island, WI

LEG 8 ĩ 8th Fire

84 Bad River
85 Fond Du Lac
86 Leech Lake
87 Boise Fort
88 International Falls
89 Fort Frances, ON
90 Couchiching FN
91 Manitou Rapids
92 Naicatchewenin
93 Ojibwes of
Onigaming
94 Naotkamegawanning
95 Wauzhushk Onigum
96 Kenora, ON
97 Obashkaandagaang
98 Shoal Lake
99 Whiteshell
100 Sagkeeng

**LEG 9 ĩ Heart
of Turtle Island**

- 101 Brokenhead
- 102 Peguis FN
- 103 Winnipeg, MB
- 104 Long Plain FN
- 105 Swan Lake
- 106 Roseau River
- 107 Dog Creek
- 108 Ebb and Flow
- 109 Sandy Bay
- 110 Rolling River
- 111 Wasagaming
- 112 Heart of Turtle
Island (Riding Mtn.)

LEG 10 ĩ Treaty 2 & 4

- 113 Keeseekoowenin
- 114 Waywayseecappo
- 115 Ochapowace
- 116 Kahkewistahaw
- 117 Cowessess

- 118 Zagime
- 119 Carry the Kettle
- 120 Ochapowace
- 121 Regina, SK
- 122 Grasswoods

LEG 11 ĩ Treaty 6

- 123 Saskatoon, SK
- 124 Sweet Grass FN
- 125 Battleford, SK
- 126 Edmonton, AB
- 127 Enoch CN
- 128 Ermineskin CN

LEG 12 ĩ Treaty 7

- 129 Samson
- 130 Red Deer
- 131 Calgary, AB
- 132 Tsuu T'ina
- 133 Stoney Nakoda
- 134 Banff, AB
- 135 Lake Louise

**LEG 13 ĩ Pacific
Ocean**

- 136 Revelstoke, BC
- 137 Switsmalph
- 138 North Bay
- 139 Quaaout
- 140 Chum Creek
- 141 Neskonlith
- 142 Kamloops
- 143 Skeetchestn
- 144 Bonaparte
- 145 Oregon Jack
- 146 Pemynoos
- 147 Thompson-Nicola
- 148 Chilliwack
- 149 Sumas FN
- 150 Tetoten
- 151 Squamish Nation
- 152 Xwemelchġstn R
- 153 Vancouver, BC

The Eighth Fire Gathering

Upon completion of the Eighth Fire Prophecy Run, the youths will head to Sagkeeng where an Eighth Fire Gathering summit will be hosted. This event welcomes all indigenous peoples to visit Sagkeeng during Treaty Day celebrations in August 2023.

As part of this historic event, leaders of nations across Turtle Island are encouraged to present their affirmations in writing confirming Sagkeeng First Nation as the Eighth Fire settlement. Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew and Canada's Prime Minister Justice Trudeau are also invited and encouraged to attend this ceremony.



**Sagkeeng Anishinaabe Kelly Dale Edwards (Flying Wolf Man)
at Mooniyaang at peak total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024
commencing the Eighth Fire Prophecy Run.**

Support The Eighth Fire Prophecy Run

JOIN THE RUN!

VIEW UPDATES AT: www.Rezflix.com

- **VOLUNTEER RUNNERS** – We are seeking runners to help carry the eagle staff both short term and long distances. Email GTIIM2024@gmail.com with your contact information and where you're located to get involved
- **HOSTS** – Our team of runners are always seeking accommodations every night and its often hard to find convenience nearby. If you can host a runner for the night, please do not hesitate to reach out via text to (812) 247-5477

DONATE

- **SUGGESTED DONATION AMOUNTS:**
 - Individuals and Families: \$25, \$50, \$100 or more.
 - Businesses and Organizations: \$500 to \$1,000+
 - Nations, casinos, and governments: \$1,000 to \$5,000+
- **Donate** online using debit card or credit card using GoFundMe: www.gofundme.com/f/8th-Fire-Prophecy-Run
- **Directly Contribute** via *Email Money Transfer* (EMT) to kdewpg@gmail.com
- **Email** GTIIM2024@gmail.com for cheques, direct deposit, and invoicing.

CONTRIBUTE

- **Indigenous Businesses** are encouraged to develop 'Eighth Fire' merchandise to support the cause and raise awareness. If you create cool designs, we'll feature you for free of charge and help you drive sales.
- **Logos Contest** – Visit www.Rezflix.com for details

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