



Lheidli T'enneh Elder Ambassador Request

About Lheidli T'enneh

Lheidli means “where the two rivers flow together” and *T'enneh* means “the People.” We are a proud group rich with culture that continues to thrive in north-central British Columbia, Canada.

Our Elders, Teachers, Drummers, and other Artists pass on our traditions and teachings to the next generations, keeping our culture strong. Our connection with the land is maintained by our People. Our traditional territory stretches over 4.3 million hectares, from the impressive Rocky Mountains to the beautiful interior plateau, including the cities of Prince George, McBride and Valemount.

Requests for an Elder

Lheidli T'enneh receives many requests from various Aboriginal, Non-Aboriginal, Municipal, Regional Districts, Provincial and Federal Departments who request to have a Lheidli T'enneh representative present at the opening prayer of an event or to do an official welcome to the territory.

Requests to have a Lheidli T'enneh Elder Ambassador must be submitted in writing using the prescribed form **at least two (2) weeks prior to a scheduled meeting date.**

**Please review the attached Protocol
and complete the Request Form and send to:**

The 'Atsiyan Ink'e Atsoo Elders' society

Elders' co-ordinator: **TBD**

Email: coordinator@lheidlielders.ca (interim contact: president@lheidlielders.ca)

Lheidli T'enneh Health Office – 250-962-9730

Lheidli T'enneh Elder Ambassador Protocol



In this protocol, the following areas are presented:

- Use of Terminology and Acknowledgement of Territory
- Extending Invitations to Elders for Events and/or Activities
- Elder Host/Escort
- Tips on working with First Nations People
- Honorarium/Gifts

Elders are important to the Lheidli T'enneh community and their knowledge, wisdom, and time must be respected.

USE OF TERMINOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

There are many terms associated with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples such as Indigenous, Aboriginal, Métis, Inuit, and of course the various names associated with the diverse cultures, languages, and peoples across the province and beyond (e.g. Gitx̱san, Lheidli T'enneh, Nisga'a, and Tsilhqot'in, to name a few). It is important to note this diversity and our commitment to inclusion.

As this is Lheidli T'enneh's traditional territory, wherever possible at the commencement of a meeting/event, to refer to and acknowledge the local community and the traditional territory of Lheidli T'enneh first and include other Aboriginal peoples by saying "and other First Nations, Metis, and Inuit" people or cultures. This respect to the local community and the traditional territory of the local people is in keeping with First Nations protocol across the Nation and around the world.

EXTENDING INVITATIONS TO ELDERS

For all levels of government, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and industries who may need assistance in contacting an Elder to participate with an event or activity, the following steps should be considered:

1. Prepare the following information:
 - Theme** – What is taking place? The Elder requires an agenda for the event.
 - Date** – date of the event.
 - Time** – What time does the event start and when would you like the Elder to be present?

Expectations for how long you want an Elder to be present must be indicated on the application form. We want to make sure that our Elders know in advance.

Place – Where will this event take place?

Contact person – Name and cell number.

Notice to the event – If possible, we would like two weeks notice.

2. Extend the invitation to the Lheidli T'enneh Elder Ambassador by **contact Elder co-ordinator TBD – in the meantime contact Lenora White at president@lheidlielders.ca – 'Atsiyan Ink'e Atsoo Elders' Society** to discuss the process of inviting an Elder to an event. The staff will facilitate the discussion in terms of expectations, length of invitation, appropriate gifting and which Elder is appropriate.
3. The next step to ensure there are appropriate resources available with the event so the processing of honorarium and the host/escort can be secured.

ELDER HOST/ESCORT

- Always ensure there is a host/escort for the Elder if she/he has been invited to an event on campus.
- The host/escort will be responsible for transportation to the event location, greeting the Elder and following the protocol outlined.
- Please be considerate of the fact that many of our Elders have mobility issues and their needs are very important when hosting.
- If the Elder chooses to stay for an event meal, it is important to note that it may be customary for some Elders to be served their meal. If there is a buffet meal and there are Elders present, someone should speak to the Elders to determine if they require assistance with their meals and asking what and how much food they would like is a thoughtful gesture.

TIPS ON WORKING WITH FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

- If you don't know the name of the Host First Nation on whose territory the building / meeting place resides on, ask.
- If you need clarity on the pronunciation, ask.

HONORARIUM/GIFTS

Lheidli T'enneh's protocol is to compensate our Elders for their time, each time they do an opening prayer for an event. This is based on the principles of respect for their knowledge, wisdom and time they are giving up to do official Lheidli T'enneh business.

It is the responsibility of the one seeking the assistance of an Elder to be prepared to offer a small honorarium for the Elder's time. Again, pending the situation, a gift is also appropriate.

We request a minimum honoraria of \$200.00 be paid payable to the Elder directly.

The honorarium/gift should be available at the time of the event or activity for the Elder, if the applicant requesting is paying the Elder directly.

Note 1: We understand that for some Non-Profit Organizations, that budgets are limited. If a token of appreciation is given, a gifting, and/or a small monetary donation is given, we ask that it is disclosed upfront, and we will advise the Elder respectively. For example, if the Non-Profit can only give traditional gifts like preserves, salmon, and/or tobacco, please advise us on your application, and Lheidli T'enneh will make arrangements to compensate the Elder.

Note 2: For some Non-Profits, they only have budgeted \$75.00 for an Elder Honorarium, and that is totally acceptable. Lheidli T'enneh will verify the amount on your application, and we will pay the difference to the Lheidli T'enneh Elder Ambassador.

OPTIONS FOR HONORARIUM

Option 1 – Direct Payment

The applicant will make arrangements to pay the Elder Directly. Details of the Elder will be provided to the applicant to make arrangements for payment at the time of the event.

Option 2 – Lheidli Payment with Reimbursement

The applicant requests Lheidli T'enneh to pay the Elder directly, and will reimburse for the appropriate agreed upon fee.

QUESTIONS



Lheidli T'enneh

Contact: interim contact ***Lenora White***

Email: president@lheidlielders.ca

Phone: 250-962-9730 or 250-614-8995

We value our relationship with Our People, Our Elders, and Our Community!

