

Hosting Recommendations

This infographic provides an overview of recommendations for hosting events with Indigenous communities. This guidance focuses on respectful engagement, inclusion in planning, and celebration of Indigenous cultures.



Respectful Engagement and Inclusion in Planning

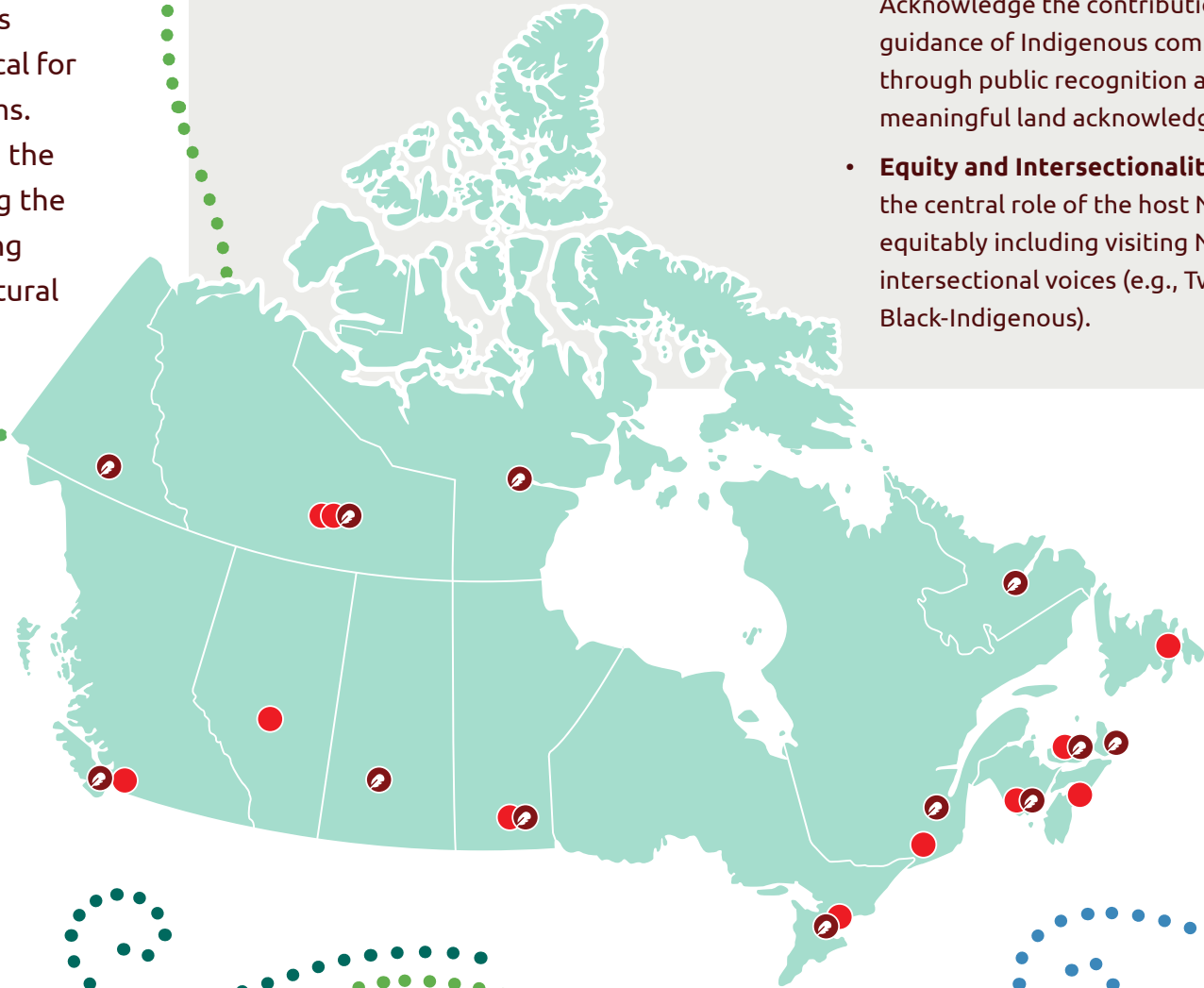
Engaging Indigenous communities respectfully and inclusively is critical for the success of events and programs. This involves working closely with the local host Nation(s) while ensuring the meaningful participation of visiting Indigenous Nations and other cultural minorities.

Core Principles:

- **Local Leadership:** The host Nation(s) should take a primary role in shaping the event's cultural, ceremonial, and logistical elements. These leaders will also inform correct protocols. In the sport context, working with the PTASBs is a helpful step.
- **Relationship Building:** Invest in cultivating long-term, reciprocal relationships with Indigenous communities. Respect that this process may require time beyond typical event planning timelines.
- **Recognition and Acknowledgment:** Acknowledge the contributions and guidance of Indigenous communities through public recognition and meaningful land acknowledgments.
- **Equity and Intersectionality:** Respect the central role of the host Nation while equitably including visiting Nations and intersectional voices (e.g., Two-Spirit, Black-Indigenous).

● Provincial/territorial sport organization (PTSO)

● Provincial/territorial Aboriginal sport body (PTASB)





Actionable Steps:

✓ Early Engagement:

- Begin consultations with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and leaders from the host Nation(s) during the initial planning stages.
- Reach out to visiting Nations early to discuss their involvement and ensure their traditions are integrated respectfully.
- Appreciate that you might not get replies on your timelines, and that the answer might also be “no”. Continue to build the relationship regardless, and be proactive in that approach.

✓ Cultural Protocols:

- Adhere to the customs and protocols of the host Nation, such as offering tobacco or other gifts when seeking guidance. Ask for this guidance.
- Respect cultural boundaries and adapt event activities to honor specific traditions and values.

✓ Inclusive Planning:

- Include Indigenous representatives in planning committees or advisory roles.
- Provide resources and support to ensure meaningful participation, such as covering travel or offering stipends.

✓ Relationships:

- Work to understand the priorities and goals of the Indigenous communities involved and build those priorities into the work together. Build around community events so they it doesn't create conflicts.
- Align event goals with the values and cultural practices of the host and visiting Nations.
- Offer support for community initiatives as part of the relationship-building process and ensure that the work is sustainable and has a legacy for the community.
- Recognizing that there may be several Nations in the regions you are working in, and it is recommended to build relationships with all of them and not to focus on one.

✓ Intersectional Representation:

- Amplify the voices of individuals who represent both Indigenous and other cultural identities.
- Highlight their contributions through programming such as panels, exhibits, or performances.



Resources:

[First Nations Health Authority: Cultural Safety](#)

[Indigenous Corporate Training Inc.: Cultural Protocols](#)





Celebrate Culture



Creating an Inclusive Cultural Celebration

Celebrating culture authentically is critical to educating attendees and honoring Indigenous traditions. For events involving multiple Indigenous Nations, it is essential to strike a balance that respects the host Nation's primacy while acknowledging visiting Nations' contributions.



Core Principles:

- **Prioritize Host Nation:** Center the event around the culture and traditions of the local Indigenous Nation(s) while inviting visiting Nations to share their unique identities.
- **Authenticity:** Present Indigenous cultural elements with consent and collaboration, avoiding stereotypes or tokenism.
- **Intersectional Celebration:** Highlight the diverse identities within Indigenous communities, including LGBTQ2S+, Black-Indigenous, and other intersecting identities.



Actionable Steps:

✓ Showcase Arts and Performances:

- Begin with ceremonies led by the host Nation and invite visiting Nations to perform or share stories in subsequent segments.
- Offer opportunities for intersectional voices, such as LGBTQ2S+ artists or performers, to share their perspectives.

✓ Highlight Language:

- Use the local Nation's language for greetings and ceremonial introductions, followed by visiting Nations' languages where applicable.
- Provide translations or interpreters if Indigenous languages are prominently featured.

✓ Promote Cuisine:

- Collaborate with Indigenous chefs from the host Nation and include dishes or ingredients unique to visiting Nations.
- Provide context about the cultural significance of each dish to attendees.

✓ Interactive Activities:

- Organize workshops (e.g., beadwork, drumming) led by representatives from various Nations.
- Offer educational sessions on shared histories and distinct traditions.
- Encouraging traditional clothing/regalia.



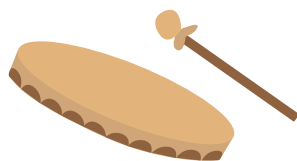
Resources:

[Sport for Life: Indigenous Long-Term Participant Development Pathway](#)



Appreciating Diverse Cultures & Nations

When hosting an event involving multiple Indigenous Nations, collaboration should respect local Nations as primary stewards while also honoring visiting Nations' contributions. Recognizing that different Nations will have a range of cultural practices and beliefs. Balancing these priorities requires clear communication and equitable inclusion.



Resources:

[Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Calls to Action](#)

[Intersectionality Explained – Ontario Human Rights Commission](#)



Core Principles:

- **Equity for Visitors:** Ensure visiting Nations feel included, respected, and valued without overshadowing the host Nation's central role.
- **Accessibility:** Address physical, linguistic, and cultural needs to create an inclusive environment.
- **Intersectional Inclusivity:** Create space for Indigenous people who are also part of additional communities, whether those are disability, gender, cultural, or other, ensuring their voices are amplified alongside the broader Indigenous representation.



Actionable Steps:

- ✓ **Engagement with Multiple Nations:**
 - Conduct separate consultations with local and visiting Nations to understand their priorities and expectations.
 - Integrate visiting Nations' practices in ways that complement, rather than conflict with, the host Nation's traditions.
 - Understanding of the protocols and whose land you are on and if you are teaching culture and collaboration that they are from that territory.
- ✓ **Plan for Accessibility & Safety:**
 - Seek to understand and respect cultural approaches to disability.
 - Review facilities and programming to support access for the diversity of participants and Elders.
 - Plan for accessibility supports in your hosting, such as physical access, quiet spaces, shade, transportation, plain language.
- Learn about and understand the history of the building or location you are hosting in to ensure it is a safe place for all.
- ✓ **Intersectional Representation:**
 - Invite speakers or performers who represent intersectional identities, such as Disability, Two-Spirit individuals or Black-Indigenous leaders.
 - Highlight the contributions of individuals from overlapping cultural and ability communities through exhibits, talks, or panels.
- ✓ **Balanced Program Design:**
 - Ensure the event program reflects the host Nation's traditions prominently while allocating time for visiting Nations to share their cultures.
 - Avoid scheduling conflicts between cultural practices that might unintentionally create tension.