



SOUTHWEST MANITOBA

# Priority Place

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION GATHERING  
FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

**SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION**  
VETERAN'S HALL & BISON PASTURE

**THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**SEPTEMBER**

## GATHERING PURPOSE

Join us for a day of networking with other Indigenous communities, discuss environmental priorities, challenges, and learn about local Indigenous-lead conservation initiatives, tools, and resources available to communities.

- 1) Tell us what you value about nature in your community to ensure community & cultural values are incorporated into the vision for the Southwest Manitoba Priority Place.
- 2) Tell us about activities or programs that you would like to see. Share your thoughts on local conservation efforts and challenges or factors affecting conservation in your area.
- 3) Hear about species at risk and habitat conservation programming in your area.
- 4) Identify activities & partnerships to advance conservation locally.

**EVENT TIME** 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**LUNCH SERVED** 12:00 PM

**Optional Field Trip to the SVDN Bison Pasture to see the Tatanka Ska / White Buffalo, 4:00 - 5:00 PM**

**WITH GUEST SPEAKERS, BISON TEACHINGS, TRADITIONAL FOODS & PLANT DISPLAYS**



Can't attend in person?  
Register to watch online!



Travel costs are covered for attendees located within the Southwest Manitoba Priority Place boundary. Elder honorariums are also available. Limited spaces. For details or to register, please contact: [cheyenne.ironman@cminiconsulting.ca](mailto:cheyenne.ironman@cminiconsulting.ca)

## CONTACT TO REGISTER

+1-204-761-3053  
[cheyenne.ironman@cminiconsulting.ca](mailto:cheyenne.ironman@cminiconsulting.ca)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://cminiconsulting.ca/>  
<https://www.natureconservancy.ca/>



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## AGENDA (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)

- 9:00 - **Arrival, Coffee & Displays**
- 9:30 - **Welcome, Opening Prayer Song, Housekeeping**
- 9:45 - **Presentation: What is a Priority Place? Southwest MB Priority Place Planning Initiative, Project Structure & Timelines** *Ron Bazin, Environment and Climate Change Canada on the SWMPP Initiative & what it means for conservation in Manitoba*
- 10:05 - **Questions & Answers**
- 10:15 - **Word Cloud**
- 10:25 - **Breakout/ Round-tables: Priority Topics** – *Based on invite feedback – what we heard. Do you agree, what other priorities do you have in your communities?*
- 11:25 - **Group Sharing and Knowledge Transfer**
- 12:00 - **Lunch & Video Presentation on Wipazoka Wakpa & Grasslands Conservation**
- 1:00 - **Speaker: Elder Eugene Ross on Cultural Importance of Environmental Conservation**
- 1:30 - **Invited Speakers** (each with 10min presentation + 5min Q&A)  
*The Central Grasslands Roadmap - an international collaborative guide to save the grasslands*  
*Key Biodiversity Areas - an information tool to support conservation & stewardship,*  
*Peter Soroye, Ph.D, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada & Amanda Bichel, Birds Canada*  
*Native Grass Species & Grassland Restoration Initiatives*  
*John Skinner, Skinner Native Seeds, Manitoba*
- 2:15 - **Breakout/ Roundtables: 2a –What kind of activities or strategies would you like to see in your communities?**
- 2:45 - **Coffee Break**
- 3:00 - **Breakout/ Roundtables: 2b - What partnership opportunities exist, or do you want to see? What resources will be needed?**
- 3:30 - **Group Sharing and Knowledge Transfer**
- 3:45 - **Wrap Up and Next Steps, Adjourn**
- 4:00 - **Optional Field Trip: Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Bison Pasture**



**INDIGENOUS  
DEVELOPMENT**



NATURE  
CONSERVANCY  
CANADA



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# Priority Place

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION GATHERING FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

### Invited Speakers:



**SIoux VALLEY DAKOTA NATION**  
SEPTEMBER 21st, 2023

PHOTO COURTESY  
OF ELTON TAYLOR



### CENTRAL GRASSLANDS ROADMAP

The Central Grasslands Roadmap is a collaborative with more than 200 organizations across 7 sectors representing Mexico, Canada, the U.S., and Indigenous/ First Nations, the Central Grasslands Roadmap is a massive, diverse effort. As we continue to identify shared priorities, we are actively compiling resources to support collaborative communication, policy advocacy, research agendas, and best practices.

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation is represented by Cheyenne Ironman in the Canadian Working Group and Indigenous Kinship Circle.

[grasslandsroadmap.org/](http://grasslandsroadmap.org/)



### KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS

**Peter Soroye, Ph.D**  
*Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA)  
Assessment and Outreach Coordinator,  
Wildlife Conservation Society Canada*  
**Amanda Bichel,**  
*Key Biodiversity Areas Coordinator,  
Birds Canada*

KBAs can be used to advance or support diverse conservation goals. Identification of KBAs does not automatically lead to formal protection or management requirements & has no impact on access to land. But knowing where these critical sites are is important and can feed into many processes.

[kbacanada.org/](http://kbacanada.org/)



### GRASSLANDS ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

**John Skinner,**  
*Skinner Native Seeds,  
(Road 138N. Skinner Road E. 20 Miles  
North of Russell, MB off Highway 83)*

John Skinner has been growing native seed on a contract basis and on the open market since 2000. SNS has experience growing many different warm season grasses, cool season grasses, and forbs.

Skinner Native Seeds is currently working with Sioux Valley Dakota Nation to restore its native grassland environments & re-seed its bison pastures as well as potential pastures.

[skinnernativeseeds.net/](http://skinnernativeseeds.net/)



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