

Traditional Native Code of Ethics

Submitted by: Harry Krueger

In addition to the sacred teachings concerning the nature of things and of the gifts of the four directions, the teachings of the Sacred Tree include a code of ethics to which all should conform their lives if they wish to find happiness and well-being. This code described what wisdom means in the relationship between individuals, in family life and in the life of the community. These are sparkling gems of experience practised by Aboriginal peoples everywhere. They represent the path of safety leading around the medicine wheel and up the great mountain to the sacred lake. What follows is a summary of some of the most important of these teachings that are universal to all nations.

(1) Each morning upon rising and each evening before sleeping, give thanks for the life within you, and for all life, for the good things the Creator has given you and others and for the opportunity to grow a little more each day. Consider your thoughts and actions of the past day and seek for the courage and strength to be a better person. Seek for the things that will benefit everyone.

(2) Respect means "to feel or show honor or esteem for someone or something; to consider the well-being of, or to treat someone or something with deference or courtesy". Showing respect is a basic law of life.

- *Treat every person, from the tiniest child to the oldest Elder with respect at all times.*
- *Special respect should be given to Elders, parents, teachers and community leaders.*
- *No person should be made to feel 'put down' by you: avoid hurting other hearts as you would a deadly poison.*
- *Touch nothing that belongs to someone else (especially sacred objects) without permission or an understanding between you.*
- *Respect the privacy of every person. Never intrude upon a person's quiet moments or personal space.*
- *Never walk between or interrupt people who are conversing.*

- *Speak in a soft voice, especially when you are in the presence of Elders, strangers or others to whom special respect is due.*
- *Do not speak unless invited to do so at gatherings where Elders are present (except to ask what is expected of you, should you be in doubt).*
- *Never speak about others in a negative way, whether they are present or not*
- *Treat the earth and all of her aspects as your mother. Show deep respect for the mineral, plant and animal worlds. Do nothing to pollute the air or the soil. If others would destroy our mother, rise up with wisdom to defend her.*
- *Show deep respect for the beliefs and religions of others.*
- *Listen with courtesy to what others say, even if you feel that what they are saying is worthless.*
- *Listen to your heart*

(3) Respect the wisdom of the people in Council. Once you give an idea to the Council or a meeting, it no longer belongs to you. It belongs to the people. Respect demands that you listen intently to the ideas of others in Council and that you should not insist that your idea prevail. Indeed you should freely support the ideas of others if they are true and good, even if those ideas are quite different from the ones you have contributed. The clash of ideas brings forth the spark of truth.

(4) Be truthful at all times and under all conditions.

(5) Always treat your guests with honor and consideration. Give your best food, your best blankets, the best party of your house and your best service to your guests.

(6) The hurt of one is the hurt of all: the honor of one is the honor of all.

(7) Receive strangers and outsiders with a loving heart and as members of the human family.

(8) All the races and nations in the world are like the different colored flowers, of one meadow. All are beautiful. As children of the Creator they must all be respected.

(9) To serve others, to be of some use to family, community, nation or the world, is one of the main purposes for which human

beings have been created. Do not fill yourself with your own affairs and forget your most important task. True happiness comes only to those who dedicate their lives to the service of others.

(10) Observe moderation and balance in all things.

(11) Know those things that lead to your well-being and those things that lead to your destruction.

(12) Listen to and follow the guidance given to your heart. Expect guidance to come in many forms; in prayer, in dreams, in times of quiet solitude and in the words and deeds of wise Elders and friends.

Four Directions,
Lethbridge, Alberta



1996 ELECTION UPDATE

Loraine Metcalf Burke
Staff Representative

Wilma Strong

Joella Cain

Denise Jordan

Election Day: FEBRUARY 4th, 1996

REMEMBER voters that you need to sign the ballot the exact way you have your name on the tribal roll.

We will be sending out a voters pamphlet in the near future.

Anyone interested in selling fry bread & Indian tacos February 4th, please contact any of the Election Board members.

Any questions, you can call us @ 1-800-922-1399 or 444-2532; 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.



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