



"It is really important what all the Elder's have brought up. Smudge, that's what Creator gave to us to protect ourselves. We ask that you stay home, pray and be safe. Enjoy your families during this time."

-Bernadette Fineday



"We were given ears to listen, a mind to follow instructions, and we were given eyes to see what's happening, and we need to respect one another and what's happening around us. We have to conduct ourselves in a manner that has been set forth for us. Funerals are hard, but we need to listen, we need to follow the rules and laws that have been set."

-Katie Moccasin



"This is a very serious pandemic we're facing right now. We love our children, we want to keep them healthy, we don't want them to get sick...we need to follow our traditional ways where children were kept at home to keep safe."

-Edward Osecap



**SWEETGRASS
FIRST NATION**



TREATY 6

**The Kīwēwin Family Centre
Elder's Council would like to
thank the following for their
support and partnership;**

- **First Nations Inuit Health Branch/Sask Region**
- **Indigenous Services Canada**
- **Government of Canada**
- **RCMP "F" Division**
- **BRT6HC**
- **BATC**



Kīwēwin Family Centre

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**A message from
our Elders**



The Elders of Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs (BATC) have a message for our people. During this pandemic, this was their advice on gatherings, ceremonies, wake and funeral services within our First Nations.

"Thank you so much to everyone, I will just simply say that what our elders have said, I am deeply touched by their heart felt comments, words, and prayers. They provide such wisdom and intelligence through their backup support."

**-Dr. Khan, First Nations Inuit Health Branch/
Sask Region, Indigenous Services Canada,
Government of Canada**



"Thank you very much to all the elders on this call for their support. It is greatly appreciated as we work through the health guidelines."

Royal Canadian Mounted Police "F" Division

"BATC is committed to the Nations we serve and the Community around us"



“We have to make sacrifices during these hard times as not to spread this virus to our families and neighbours. We have a lot to lose.”

– **Senator Fred Sasakamoose**



“As long as the ceremonial home fire is lit during the wake, we need to meet the health guidelines and RCMP at this difficult time, we can go back to our protocol and culture when this is all done. Only immediate family should take part in the wake, funeral and feast. Feasts conducted as in a table offering are recommended with the immediate family.”

– **Senator Jenny Spyglass**



“This is a very hard topic of discussion, but all these elders have wonderful ideas and guidelines to put together...we need to follow the laws and orders from the Public Health and RCMP because that is for our safety, when it comes to amount of people gathering. At our gatherings we need to have proper sanitation to be available like the masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer to protect our families.”

– **Sylvia Weenie**



“In all this, prayers and smudging is important. We need to continue to pray for each other, pray for everyone as we need to continue to live together... prayers are in ceremonies too, we can't cancel ceremonies, so we need to be careful and not gather with more than 10 people. If that means it takes 10 people, then we have to follow the protocols on both sides.”

– **Walter Swindler**



“Do your best to look after yourselves spiritually, emotionally, physically and mentally. Reach out if you need help. Call and check on loved ones when you can. Be sure to smudge and pray.”

– **Jeanette Bugler**



“We need to do all we can to keep our families safe. We Elders ask that you please obey the orders of the Health Professionals and RCMP. Stay clean as you can, at home, and within yourself.”

– **Loretta Sasakamoose**



“I paid my respects to my loved ones that we lost while sitting in my vehicle, I smudged and prayed from there, I did not get out of my vehicle. I seen the RCMP controlling the amount of people going into the hall, which I was very thankful for... elders in the communities need to talk to our kids about what is happening...we're all in this together.”

– **Anderson Moosomin**



“When we have a loss, in our families, it is so difficult because we come from such large families. For the time being, there should be security at the door to help limit the people inside. The Chief and an Elder should speak to the family to walk them through the recommended Health guidelines and answer any questions or concerns they may have.”

– **Ethel Stone**