

Pow Wow Etiquette Minute for Right Relations

Throughout Canada, you have many opportunities to attend Pow Wows. They are happy events, with dancing, singing, great food, and with amazing artwork, and crafts for sale!! It is a joyous time, but Pow Wows are also sacred events.

Ceremonial songs, and dances which are sacred, are performed throughout the Pow Wow. We dance in a clockwise fashion when invited to join the dance circle. Everyone can feel confident when they know a few rules of conduct.

Please stand during all ceremonial songs and dances (as able). The Grand Entry, Flag songs, Veterans' Songs, Honour Songs, and Ceremonial songs are included. The M.C. will announce the different songs and dances and also announce when all may join the dance circle. Remember that Indigenous peoples wear 'Regalia' not costumes and they are to be admired but not touched.

Each session of dancing begins with the "Grand Entry". First, the Eagle staffs are carried into the circle, followed by the national flag, and perhaps other flags carried by Veterans. Then the head dancers, princesses, or princes, invited dignitaries, Men dancers, and women dancers. Next are the junior boys and girls, with little boys and girls last. Following the grand entry is a Flag Song and a prayer by an Elder in their own indigenous language.

Dogs are not allowed on the grounds of the pow-wow area. Parents are expected to take good care of their children and not hold them when dancing in the dance area. Pictures, videos, or audios are allowed by permission only from those you wish to record. May photograph a child with parental permission.

Pow Wows are alcohol and drug free and not tolerated in any fashion. As guests, we respect the Elders, drummers, singers, dancers, and staff.

Most of all enjoy, make new friends, ask questions, and have fun!

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