

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



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TO: BC Chiefs and Leadership
FROM: BC Assembly of First Nations
DATE: July 11, 2022
RE: Papal Visit

PURPOSE

To provide information on logistics and ticketing information for the Papal Visit to Canada to First Nations in BC, and to advise First Nations that BCAFN will circulate a registration link for First Nations to indicate their ticket and priority seating needs shortly.

You may contact BCAFN with any questions at papalvisit2022@bcfn.ca

BACKGROUND

The below information regarding the Papal Visit was received from Dene National Chief Gerald Antoine, NWT Regional Chief for the Assembly of First Nations and Portfolio Lead for the Residential Schools Portfolio:

The AFN, Metis National Council (MNC), and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), have not been appropriately engaged in the planning of this historic visit, and decision making is beyond the AFN's control. To be clear, this is not an AFN process. The AFN has continuously stated its position and provided clear direction to the Office of the Papal Visit; however, the cultural divide is significant. We know the timelines are challenging. Nonetheless, we will proceed together in unity and good faith, in a good way, to ensure the needs of our people are met. We also stand in unity with our host Nations as they navigate this process within their territories to ensure local First Nations protocols are respected.

The AFN has been assured that **no former student / survivor will be turned away**. Please note, many details have not been finalized by the organizers, and we are still awaiting additional logistical information regarding transportation and onsite amenities.

EVENT ITINERARY AND SEATING CAPACITY

The Pope will be in attendance at four public events, and one public viewing event.

Maskwacis, Alberta, July 25, 10:00 am

- Total Capacity = ~16,000
- Survivors Inner Circle, ticketed (total = 2,500, **BC FN = 158**)

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- Open Public Seating, not ticketed (**total = 4,000 in Arbour Perimeter, register with AFN for Priority bus/seat plan; and 9,000 on Site Grounds**)

Commonwealth Stadium, Alberta, July 26, 10:15 am

- Total Capacity = 73,000
- Survivors Inner Circle, ticketed (total = 7,000, **BC FN = 441**)
- Public Seating, ticketed (total = 66,000, **BC FN = 4,200**)

Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta, July 26, 5:00 pm

- Total Capacity = 25,000
- Survivors Inner Circle, ticketed (total = 2,000, **BC FN = 126**)
- Open Public Seating, not ticketed (**total = 23,000 on Site Grounds, register with AFN for Priority bus/seat plan**)
- Church-Invite only = 300

Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre, Quebec, July 28, 10:00 am

- Total Capacity = 12,000
- Survivors Inner Circle, ticketed (total = 1,600, **BC FN = 0**)
- Public Seating, ticketed (total = 10,400, **BC FN = 0**)

La Citadelle, Plains of Abraham, Quebec, July 27, 4:00 pm (public viewing event)

- Total Capacity = 140,000
- Open Seating, First Nations given priority, screens set up for viewing

FUNDING AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) are working with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) to provide logistical support and security coordination.
- We have been assured that CIRNAC and ISC are also working to provide funding and supports for individuals and communities and specific **details will be made available soon**. They indicate the funding process will be easily and quickly accessible, and flexible to accommodate travelers and community events.
- **Former students / survivors and communities are responsible for making their own travel arrangements**, and many have already begun, despite so much uncertainty. Others are waiting for further confirmation of funding and program details. Please note: Accommodations are booking up quickly.

TICKETS – GENERAL INFORMATION AND TICKET TYPES

- **All tickets to all of the Papal Visit events are FREE.** (If you hear of people selling tickets, please report this to Shannon Monk sm Monk@afn.ca immediately.)
- Ticketing to the events is determined by Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB).
- Seats are limited due to the sheer physical number of people the various sites can accommodate.
- At the four public events with the Pope, there are two different types of tickets and seating options.



- ***The Survivors Inner Circle*** is for those who will have closest access to the Pope
 - This event space IS ticketed for all events
 - These tickets are prioritized for former students / survivors
 - Not every former student / survivor can sit in the inner circle. The sites don't have capacity to accommodate everyone
 - Tickets will be allocated by region, based on numbers of former students / survivors and available seats
- ***Open Public Seating*** is available on the site grounds, farther away from the Pope
 - In *Maskwacis* Public Seating is NOT ticketed
 - In *Lac Ste. Anne* Public Seating is NOT ticketed
 - In Edmonton at *Commonwealth Stadium*, public seating IS ticketed
 - In Quebec at *Sainte Anne de Beaupres*, public seating IS ticketed
- AFN Regions will receive an allocation of tickets for each site to allocate within their regions where applicable.
- Note that regions have only been allocated tickets for visits for sites that fall within their broader region – eastern or western Canada. Therefore, BC First Nations have only been allocated tickets to attend site visits in Alberta. However, if you wish to attend a site visit in Quebec, please advise papalvisit2022@bcfn.ca.

TICKETS – HOW FIRST NATIONS IN BC CAN GET TICKETS

NOTIFYING THE BCAFN OF YOUR TICKET NEEDS

- Each AFN Region is responsible for determining a process to allocate the tickets that are designated for their region.
- The process for First Nations in BC to register to receive tickets for the various site visits is outlined below.
- **A registration link requesting the following information will be circulated shortly.**
Via this link, BCAFN will request the following information:
 - How many of each type of ticket you require for each event (where events are ticketed) - Survivors Inner Circle or Public Seating
 - If possible, the name of each ticket holder
 - Accessibility needs
 - Indicate whether the ticket holder is a former student / survivor, and which institution(s) they attended
 - If you would like to access Public Seating for events where Public Seating tickets are not required (Maskwacis and Lac Ste. Anne), but would like to receive priority seating/bussing, please also advise BCAFN of your numbers and names.
- Please help us ensure everyone gets a ticket by avoiding duplication of tickets. **Please identify your attendance for one event only.** If we follow our sacred teachings and share, there will be room for everyone who wishes to go.
- **Once you let BCAFN know your desired tickets via the registration link, BCAFN will work with the AFN to issue Access Codes for individuals or groups to register.**

SURVIVORS INNER CIRCLE TICKETS

- The process for registering for Survivor Inner Circle Tickets is the same for all four sites, and can be requested via the registration link as per the instructions above.



PUBLIC SEATING TICKETS

ALBERTA SITES - Maskwacis and Lac Ste. Anne - Public Seating Area on the Grounds NO TICKETS REQUIRED

- This is organized as a first come, first served event for public participation on the grounds, which will be set up with screens for viewing. No tickets are required.
- AFN has requested that First Nations have a priority bussing and seating plan implemented so that we can get there early and have good access to the screen areas.
- AFN has requested chairs to be provided for Elders, but we don't yet know what the status is.
- The CCCB plan currently is that people are welcome to bring lawn chairs and blankets
- Although there is no ticketing per se, if you plan to attend, please let us know your numbers so we can advise the site team to prepare accordingly.

ALBERTA SITE - Commonwealth Stadium - Public Seating throughout Stadium TICKETS REQUIRED

- Provide your information via the registration link as per the instructions above to request tickets.
- **The CCCB is ALSO releasing general public tickets through Ticket Master on Monday July 11, and again on Monday July 18.** First Nations individuals and communities are MORE than welcome to "do their own thing" and register for this event themselves. If you register via this channel, let BCAFN at papalvisit2022@bcfn.ca know that you have these tickets so we can ensure others have access to the tickets that are side aside for First Nations specifically.
- As this is a larger event, First Nations who are not former students / survivors are encouraged to get tickets for this event, to create space for our former students / survivors at the smaller events.

QUEBEC SITE - Sainte Anne de Beaupre - Public Seating Area on the Grounds TICKETS REQUIRED (none provided to the BC Region unless specifically requested)

QUEBEC SITE - La Citadelle - Public Seating Area on the Grounds REGISTRATION REQUESTED

- There is space for 140,000 members of the public to participate at the Plains of Abraham, where there will be opportunities to view papal events on large screens.
- Those planning to attend this event are invited to let organizers know by registering at: www.papalvisit.ca or www.visitepapale.ca. Registration will allow attendees to receive updated program information via email. Registration will open as of Monday, July 11, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. EST.
- If this is of interest to communities, the AFN can investigate the possibility of a dedicated space for First Nation attendees, so please advise papalvisit2022@bcfn.ca if this is of interest.
- As this is a larger event, First Nations who are not former students / survivors are encouraged to get tickets for this event, to create space for our former students / survivors at the Sainte Anne de Beaupre event.

TICKETS FOR THOSE WHO MAKE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGES



- The CCCB has set aside tickets for those individuals and communities who undertake regular, *annual pilgrimages* to Lac Ste. Anne or Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre. If you are part of an annual pilgrimage, *please request Survivors Inner Circle Tickets from your local site contacts*. They have special tickets allocated for you already.

ENCLOSURES

- Papal Visit itinerary as of July 6, 2022, which provides some detail about each event. You may also visit the website for more information: <https://www.papalvisit.ca/schedule/>

