



CRE's Indigenous Youth Gathering 2023

Impact Report

OVERVIEW

CRE hosted over 150 total attendees including 95 Indigenous youth participants to convene at the Indigenous Youth Gathering in Banff, AB. Banff is located on the traditional territories of the Iyârhe Nakoda Nations (Bears paw, Wesley, Chiniki), the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina – part of the Dene people, Ktunaxa, Secwépemc, Mountain Cree, and Métis. We are so thankful to the Stoney Nakoda Elders and youth that we connected and worked with, for welcoming us to their territory and making this event possible.

Consisting of programming led by and for Indigenous youth, the event was held from April 24-28th at the esteemed Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Banff, Alberta. The theme for this year's Gathering was selected by the Gathering Youth Advisory Circle (GYAC). The 2023 theme was, "All Together: Sustaining Our Stories, Growing Our Futures". The GYAC wanted to reflect their shared desire for Indigenous youth to share collective space, be in community, and foster a safe space focused on how Indigenous youth can and should thrive. Onsite support was provided by Inuk Elder Zippie, Métis Elder Edmee, and Stoney Nakoda Elders Terry and Margaret, and remotely with 2S Elder Blu Waters.



PROGRAMMING

Most of the Gathering sessions were created and led by the Indigenous youth in attendance. Each day was emceed by proud Two-Spirit advocate, artist, leader and influencer, Kairyn Potts, from the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation. Guest speakers included Afro-Mi'kmaw Knowledge keeper Carolyn Crawley, renowned Cree youth & Two-Spirit New York Fashion Week alum Scott Wabano, Metis Jamaican Indigenous, anti-racism, and climate justice researcher, policy advisor, and restorative circle keeper Larissa Crawford, Inuk youth throat singer and global phenomenon Shina Nova, and First Nations, Indigenous hand drum group Chubby Cree.

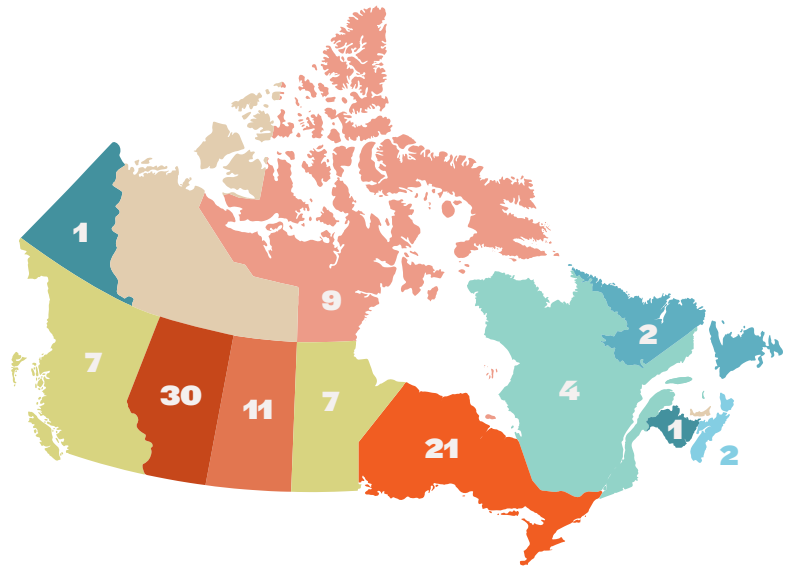
Select sessions:

- * Medicine pouch making
- * Letters to the land workshop
- * How to be in Solidarity workshop
- * Accessibility for Deaf Indigenous Youth
- * Language Revitalization and Preservation
- * Country food and storytelling in the yurt
- * Truth and Reconciliation - Call to Action 66 Video challenge
- * Ogichidaa Kwe Drummers connection and grounding workshop
- * Cave and Basin Tour by Daryl Kootenay (Stoney Nakoda youth leader)
- * A film night featuring Indigenous youth-centered short films curated by Janine Windolph, Chanelle Simeon, and Sabrina Muisse
- * A talent show featuring Gathering participants and CRE staff
- * Nightly fires with stories



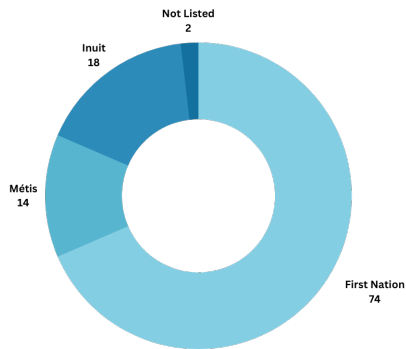
KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

CRE was proud to host youth from coast to coast to coast. **Ninety-five** Indigenous Youth Participants came from the following 11 provinces and territories: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Quebec.

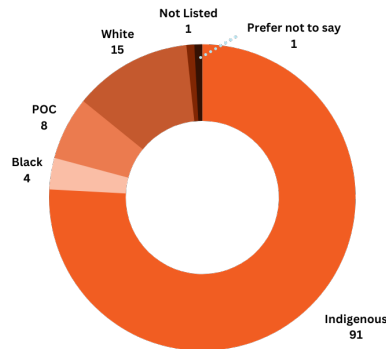


Megan Dicker from Nain, the largest community in Nunatsiavut in Labrador, said being at the gathering left her feeling “really seen and understood...Our voices are so powerful,” she said.

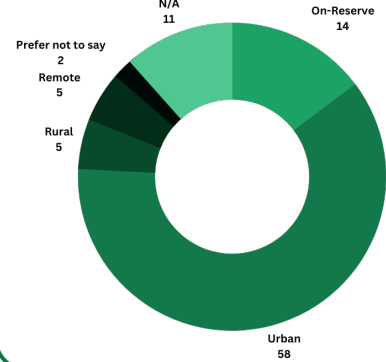
Indigenous Identity



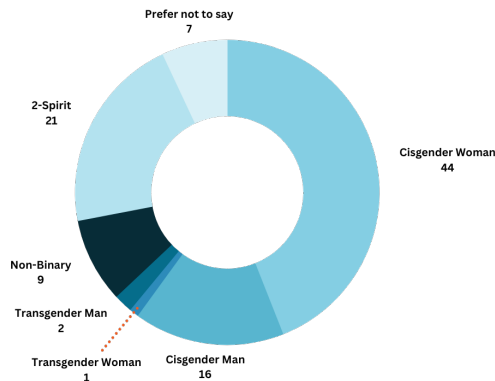
Demographic Identity



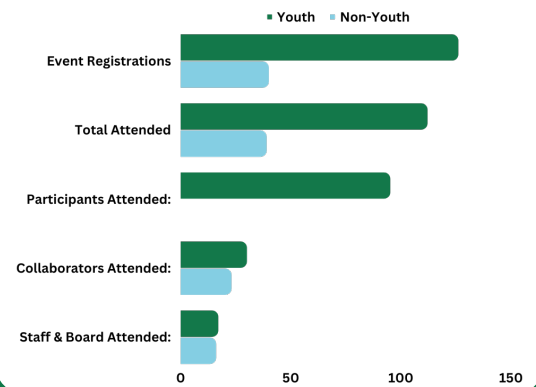
Community



Gender



Attendance and Session Data



MEDIA COVERAGE AND ATTENDEE GENERATED CONTENT

- * [CBC Article - 'This is Indigenous joy:' 150 Indigenous youth gather in Banff for 'life-saving' retreat](#)
- * [Gathering Highlight reel](#)
- * [Kairyn Potts's Tiktok video](#)
- * [Participant Tiktok](#)
- * [Participant Tiktok](#)



One of the most recent programs I was involved in with CRE was the Gathering hosted in Treaty 7 territory. Youth from all over Turtle Island were brought together to connect, share, build relationships, and learn. Everyone who attended had a relationship with CRE in some way—whether it was through project funding, advising, mentorship, advocacy, educational opportunities, or other connections. It was impressive to see how far the reach of CRE’s work has gone, and the impact it has had on so many people and communities. The Gathering created an opportunity for me to gain friendships, experiences, and knowledge that will have a long-lasting positive impact.

Maddy Pilon
Gathering Advisory Committee member, presenter and participant



151
ATTENDEES



95
PARTICIPANTS



56
EVENT SESSIONS



63
EVENT HOURS

CRE is grateful to everyone who travelled to join us from coast to coast to coast, shared their knowledge and gifts, and helped make this event truly special. This event wouldn't have been possible without the relationships we made with the Stoney Nakoda Elders, youth and community that welcomed us to their territory.

“It was a life altering event to experience. [...] The Sessions were very informative, interactive and engaging with the audience. Examples are the Solidarity workshop, Indigenous storytelling and the campfire, our Stories, and the opening ceremony.”
Keenan Bird, participant

CRE



89% of respondents felt that the Gathering provided them with opportunities to build new relationships.



91% of respondents said they would attend another Gathering if they could!



CRE