



Assiniboine Park Conservancy Partners with Local Indigenous Organization for Community Engagement Workshop at the Future Site of the Indigenous Peoples' Garden

For immediate release: Winnipeg, September 25, 2019 – On September 25 and 26, the Assiniboine Park Conservancy (APC) will host approximately 30 young adults from the Eagle's Nest Aboriginal Youth Resource and Recreation Program for a two-day community build workshop at the future site of the Indigenous Peoples' Garden, one of the new featured gardens that will surround The Leaf, currently under construction in the south-east corner of Assiniboine Park.

"The Indigenous Peoples' Garden will be a very important part of the Canada's Diversity Gardens experience," said Gerald Dieleman, Canada's Diversity Gardens Project Director, Assiniboine Park Conservancy. "The vision and design for the garden has evolved over the course of several years through a respectful, rewarding and collaborative process involving Indigenous elders, designers, and community leaders. This workshop provides us with another opportunity to work directly with members of the Indigenous community who are helping us bring this vision to life."

Over the course of the two days, participants will work side by side with APC horticultural staff and Bird Construction on a boardwalk feature and landscaping in the new garden. The workshop will provide participants with a valuable and empowering learning experience and help to build deeper connections between the Indigenous community and Assiniboine Park.

"Landscaping in the Indigenous Peoples' Garden is well underway and construction of the fire and water features is on track," said Dieleman. "About 40 trees and 280 shrubs will be planted in the area in September and over 1,100 grassland plugs will arrive for planting in early October."

*The **Indigenous Peoples' Garden** is one of the new featured gardens that will surround The Leaf at Canada's Diversity Gardens. The garden will feature a naturalized environment and serve as a gathering place where people can learn about Indigenous perspectives, beliefs and traditions. Two elements, fire and water, will also feature prominently in the garden due to their importance in Indigenous cultures.*

*The **Eagle's Nest Aboriginal Youth Resource and Recreation Program** provides services and programs to primarily First Nation/Indigenous people, particularly those that are transitioning to city life. The Eagle's Nest Program provides counseling, advocacy and referral services, workshops, cultural supports and youth programming that is tailored towards meeting the needs of First Nations/Indigenous people requiring holistic support.*

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For interviews and information requests, please contact:
Laura Cabak, Manager, Communications & Public Relations
Phone: 204-927-6077 | Cell: 204-795-0091 | Email: lcabak@assiniboinepark.ca