

## **Invitation to Spirituality is Unity Walk**

Kwey kwey (Greetings),

We write to invite you, for justice's sake, to walk in solidarity with us and other Indigenous leaders (including Algonquin Anishinabe Chiefs) at *Spirituality is Unity: Walk For Our Sacred Site, Akikodjiwan*. On June 22, 2018, we gather at 10:00am on Victoria Island (Booth St. entrance). At 10:30am we will walk to Parliament Hill, with speakers and ceremony at 12:00pm noon.

Shoulder to shoulder, we will walk with Canadian citizens of all colours and cultural backgrounds in support of Indigenous Peoples and their right to embrace a faith or religion of their own choosing. This helps us move forward in recovery, healing and reconciliation. For ourselves and all other people who wish us wellness and success in the years to come.

After European contact, Indigenous spirituality was not allowed to flourish in Canada. Nor has it ever been vigorously defended and protected in the way other faiths are shielded from harm's way by Canadian law. Indeed, our spiritual beliefs were outlawed in this supposedly free and democratic country until almost 1960.

All righteous people recognize today that denying a human being his/her right to embrace a faith of his/her choice is wrong. All faith leaders acknowledge today that such an action (outlawing Indigenous spirituality) was against God. Today, Indigenous spirituality is slowly reviving. Indigenous spirituality must be supported and protected to the same degree that your faith or religion is. Whoever desecrates your place of worship must be condemned. But so should anyone who defiles our sacred place of prayer and ceremony be equally condemned. Protecting sacredness is only doing what Creator expects of us. We stand behind the words, "An attack on one faith is an attack on all faiths."

This is why I ask that you walk with us on June 22nd. Our sacred site, Akikodjiwan (Chaudière Falls and nearby islands) was defiled with a dam, and the islands were polluted. Instead of returning our sacred site to us so that we could heal the land and go there for prayer and ceremony, the government and NCC are allowing a developer to build condos on the sacred islands. Would you agree with condos being built on your church, synagogue, mosque, or temple? We ask that you voice your support for our sacred site by attending this walk.

This cause, which also defends water, will benefit all of humanity. Your presence is important, and will never be forgotten. We will welcome you with open arms and joyful hearts. We ask that you tell your friends and family about the walk and encourage them to attend, too. And please share the <u>FB Event</u>.

In solidarity with peace, freedom and equality, Migwech (Thank you),

Oshki Nodin (Albert Dumont) & Nokomis (Grandmother) Jane Chartrand.

For questions and to RSVP: Info.Albert.Dumont@gmail.com

