**Hide Tanning in the City of Somba K’e**

**Dene Nahjo to host caribou and moose hide tanning camp in downtown Yellowknife**

**Somba K’e, Denendeh** — Dene Nahjo invites the public to experience the revitalization of an ancient cultural practice through the teachings of Elders during a three-week caribou and moose hide tanning camp at Somba K’e Civic Plaza (Yellowknife Tennis Courts) this summer, July 11-29, 2016 Monday – Friday.

Elders, instructors and experienced hide tanners will join together to tan over 10 hides using various regional techniques, while creating traditional tanning tools in the process. Members of the public are invited to come to the site to observe the traditional tanning, in action. There will be opportunities to touch and try the tools, ask questions of the tanners, and enjoy some tea and bannock.

Program Hours:

Mondays: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesdays: 12:00pm – 7:00pm

Wednesdays: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Thursdays: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Fridays: 10:00am – 4:00pm

The camp will help to create a space for critical reflection and discussion around the history of colonization in Canada, Indigenous political mobilization, Northern health and wellness, and cultural revitalization.

“Reclaiming Indigenous knowledge and revitalizing cultures is the path by which Indigenous peoples can transcend the damage created by colonization, which has had devastating impacts on Indigenous people and communities’ health and well-being,” says Dene Nahjo project director Iris Catholique.

“Hide tanning is an important contemporary cultural practice, but the opportunities to learn are not readily accessible. This moose and caribou hide tanning camp will open the space for intergenerational knowledge exchange, and give the general public get a better understanding of why hide tanning is so important to many Indigenous peoples in the North.”

The hide tanning revitalization project is made possible by the generous contributions of the City of Yellowknife, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (Education, Culture and Employment), GNWT Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Denesoline Corporation Ltd and the Sacred Fire Foundation.

Dene Nahjo, a project of Tides Canada Initiatives, is a new generation of leaders and community builders working to advance social and environmental justice for Northern peoples and promote Indigenous leadership.

**For more information, please contact:**

To find out information on how to sign up as a participant to learn how to smoke and tan moose and caribou hide contact

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