

PÊHONÂN SERIES

2026 marks the 150th anniversary of Treaty 6. We are grateful to honour this important milestone with our Fringe community. We are all treaty people.

Welcome, Tatawaw: “there is room” in our pêhonân.

pêhonân means “meeting place” in Nêhiyawêwin.

The Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival sits on sacred land, where for time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have gathered to share in story, feast, and celebration.

Now in its sixth year, our pêhonân continues to grow as a space for learning, sharing, and connection.

New this year, our pêhonân centres around a community of mikiwahps, or tipis, raised on the greenspace south of the Strathcona Community League. Located across 103 Street just east of the main Fringe Festival Grounds, pêhonân offers an opportunity to slow down and experience gathering in a way that reflects Indigenous values of relationship, care, and respect.

Follow our Buffalo Path to reach the new location of pêhonân — a journey of reflection and learning before entering the space.

When you arrive at our community of tipis, you are invited to explore a variety of self-directed and interactive experiences rooted in Indigenous knowledge, storytelling, teachings, and ways of life. Explore new programming: *13 Moons*, *Sacred Medicines*, *Stories of the Sacred*, *A Métis Story*, and the return of *Whose Land*.

These mikiwahps have been intentionally placed on greenspace based on learnings shared with us from Elders and Knowledge Keepers who remind us of our connection to Mother Earth. This setting creates a vibrant, welcoming environment where children can play, Elders can sit and visit, and community can gather comfortably throughout the day – whether seeking shade from the sun or shelter from the rain.

pêhonân is a place where Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities can gather in the spirit of understanding. Whether you come to listen and learn, or simply spend time in the space, we welcome you to experience the stories, teachings, and cultures shared within.

Our sincere gratitude to the Edmonton Community Foundation and Edmonton Arts Council for their generous support, and to the Strathcona Community League for welcoming us.

You'll also find Indigenous programming throughout the Festival: on our outdoor stages, in our theatre venues, at KidsFringe and beyond. On behalf of the Indigenous Programming team, welcome to pêhonân.

— MJ Belcourt Moses
Indigenous Director



13 Moons

Explore the 13 Moons and the seasonal teachings that guide Indigenous ways of living throughout the year. Discover how each moon reflects the interconnected relationship between the land, waters, plants, animals, and people.

Sacred Medicines

Learn about the four sacred medicines – tobacco, sage, cedar, and sweetgrass – and their cultural significance in many Indigenous traditions. Discover how these medicines are used with respect in ceremony, prayer, healing, and daily life.

Whose Land?

Journey through the history of Turtle Island by exploring the traditional territories and homelands of First Nations peoples. Reflect on whose land you are on today and deepen your understanding of Indigenous presence, history, and stewardship.

Stories of the Sacred

Discover how storytelling has preserved Indigenous history, culture, language, and teachings for countless generations. Through reflection and interactive displays, explore the power of stories to connect us to the land, our communities, our ancestors, and one another.

A Métis Story

Discover the rich history, culture, and traditions of the Métis Nation through stories, artifacts, and lived experiences. Learn about Métis identity, language, music, artistry, and the resilience of a people who continue to shape Canada.

Buffalo Path

Follow the Buffalo Path to learn about the profound relationship between the buffalo and Indigenous Peoples of the Plains. Explore how the buffalo provided food, clothing, shelter, tools, and spiritual teachings, sustaining communities for countless generations.

