



Circle of Indigenous Nations Society  
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## **COINS Community Event Welcoming/Elder's Blessing**

COINS is an Indigenous non-profit society that delivers cultural support, services, and counseling to Indigenous children, youth, families and community in the West Kootenay and Boundary region.

COINS recognizes we are on unceded traditional territory of the First Peoples in the area. When offering a blessing/welcoming as requested by the community, our local Elders "acknowledge the ancestors and keepers of the land" to ensure all First Peoples in the area are acknowledged and honored. Since our Elders and staff are not historically from this region, our Society realizes that we cannot welcome a group/event to the traditional territory, however we can welcome people to an event and/or to the Indigenous community on behalf of our society.

Our Elders Protocol:

- Honorariums for Elders offering blessings will be graciously accepted and the suggested amount to offer is between \$100 and \$150 depending on what is being asked. If the request is for an Elder to attend a half day or full day the suggested amounts would be \$250-\$400. Tobacco is traditionally offered as well when making a request for an Elder. If the request is for an Elder that does not live in the same community as the event, we ask that there be consideration for mileage reimbursement as well. If the request comes from a non-profit society that does not have the capacity to offer a monetary honorarium, a traditional gift (ie) traditional medicine or tobacco) can be offered to the Elder and our society can help with obtaining this gift.
- When an Elder is requested, they will often attend with a COINS staff person for support. Our blessings can include a traditional song with the drum, and if this is the case, we ask that there be no alcohol in the room that the song is taking place.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.