



**Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre**  
**English River First Nation #192J**  
**305-2555 Grasswood Road East, Saskatoon, SK S7T 0K1**  
**TEL: 306-244-1146 FAX: 306-665-6520**  
Website: [www.sicc.sk.ca](http://www.sicc.sk.ca)



**Birds of Prey Program**  
**Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre**  
**2018 Call for Applications**

January 15, 2018

Saskatchewan First Nations  
Saskatchewan Tribal Councils  
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN)  
FSIN Institutions  
Saskatchewan First Nation Schools

To Whom It May Concern:

The Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre (SICC) is issuing a Call for Applications to the Birds of Prey Program. This program provides access to Birds of Prey feathers and other body parts from Eagles, Hawks and other raptors by Saskatchewan First Nations individuals, First Nations and First Nations institutions for use in ceremonial traditions and sacred practices. Saskatchewan First Nations individuals wishing to request Birds of Prey feathers and other body parts must complete "Part A" of the attached **SICC Birds of Prey Application Form**. For those Saskatchewan First Nations' Institutions wishing to request Birds of Prey feathers for ceremonial purposes, they will require the completion of "Part B" of the same application form indicated above. Please return the completed application form to:

Attention: Melody Wood  
Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre  
305 – 2555 Grasswood Road East  
Saskatoon, SK S7T 0K1  
Phone: 306-244-1146  
Fax: 306-665-6520  
Email: [melody.wood@sicc.sk.ca](mailto:melody.wood@sicc.sk.ca)

**The deadline for application to the Birds of Prey Program is Monday, April 30, 2018.** All successful applicants will be notified by telephone by Friday, May 11, 2018 (date subject to change) and followed up with a letter indicating the results of their application.

First Nations and Tribal Councils are requested to post and distribute the attached SICC Birds of Prey Application Form to interested individuals. If you require further information, please call Melody Wood at (306) 244-1146.

Sincerely,

**Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre**

Wanda Wilson  
President



## SICC Birds of Prey Program – Key Dates

**The Birds of Prey Program Call for Proposals will be done mid-January, 2018.** All applications will be faxed to band offices and First Nations institutions. Please ensure that your applications are in to the SICC prior to the deadline.

**The deadline for applications to the 2018 Birds of Prey Program is April 30, 2018.** The Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre will not accept applications after this date.

**A review of the applications will be done the second week of May 2018.** The SICC Elders Council will review all applications and make their recommendations for approval.

**Successful applicants for the Birds of Prey Program will be notified immediately after the SICC Elders Council meets.** Additionally, the SICC will notify all applicants, in writing, the results of the decisions of the SICC Elders Council.

**The 2018 Birds of Prey Program Feather Issuance ceremony will occur the week of May 14-18, 2018.** Successful applicants are obligated to obtain their feathers and other items in PERSON and are responsible for their travel costs for the Feather Issuance Ceremony. An offering of tobacco and cloth are considered appropriate protocols.



Body Parts (Wing, Bone, Talons, etc.)	Species (Eagle, Hawk, Owl, etc.)
For each body part request, please give a detailed description how each item will be utilized:	

In each Saskatchewan First Nation culture, there are specific protocols an individual must meet in order to possess birds of prey feathers and/or body parts. Briefly describe your understanding of the protocols and practices of your culture as it relates to Birds of Prey feathers, etc.

<b>References (Please note that we must have two references for a complete application)</b>		
Examples may be a First Nations Elder, Veteran, Chief or other respected leader.		
Name:	Phone:	Phone:
Name:	Phone:	Phone:
<b>Applicant Signature</b>		
By signing this form, I commit to attend the Feather Issuance Ceremony or have a representative in my absence, or forfeit the items I have requested.		
Signature:	Date:	

### Changes for the current year and beyond

1. A complete application will have all portions of the form filled out - individual or institutional requests.
2. Requests for feathers and body parts are not available for Pow Wow Regalia
3. Requests for feathers and body parts are not available for persons under the age of 18.
4. Requests for feathers and body parts are for ceremonies that originate from the Saskatchewan area.
5. Requests for feathers and body parts are not available to institutions on behalf of graduating students; students must apply for their own feathers, if he or she wishes.
6. Applicants will be telephoned and notified in writing of the results of the decision of the Elders Council.
7. Successful applicants are obligated to obtain their feathers and other items in person at the Feather Issuance Ceremony to be held in late May of each year in Saskatoon.
8. Successful applicants are responsible for their travel costs to the Feather Issuance Ceremony.
9. Consistent with First Nations and ancestral protocols, an offering of tobacco and cloth must be presented at the Feather Issuance Ceremony.
10. At the Feather Issuance Ceremony, the successful applicants will be spoken to by Elders about the responsibilities and appropriate protocols for the handling of feathers and/or talons/bone parts.

**PART B****INSTITUTIONAL REQUEST**

Organization Name:

Contact Name:

First Nation:

Mailing Address:

Home Phone:

Fax:

Work Phone:

Fax:

Cell Phone:

Email:

**Birds of Prey Feathers Request**

Number of Feathers

Type (Plume, Wing, Tail, etc.)

Species (Eagle, Hawk, Owl, etc.)

For each feather request, please give a detailed description how each item will be utilized:

**Birds of Prey Body Parts Request**

Body Parts (Wing, Bone, Talons, etc.)

Species (Eagle, Hawk, Owl, etc.)

For each body part request, please give a detailed description how each item will be utilized:

In each Saskatchewan First Nation culture, there are protocols an individual must meet in order to possess birds of prey feathers and/or body parts. Describe your understanding of the protocols of your culture:

<b>References (Please note that we must have two references for a complete application)</b>		
Examples may be a First Nations Elder, Veteran, Chief or other respected leader.		
Name:	Phone:	Phone:
Name:	Phone:	Phone:
<b>Applicant Signature</b>		
As the contact person, by signing this form, I commit to attend the Feather Issuance Ceremony or have a representative in my absence, or forfeit the items I have requested.		
Signature:	Date:	

### **Changes for the current year and beyond**

1. A complete application will have all portions of the form filled out - individual or institutional requests.
2. Please be as clear as possible regarding the request(s) and the purpose of the request(s).
3. Requests for feathers and body parts are not available for Pow Wow Regalia
4. Requests for feathers and body parts are not available for persons under the age of 18.
5. Requests for feathers and body parts are for ceremonies that originate from the Saskatchewan area.
6. Requests for feathers and body parts are not available to institutions on behalf of graduating students; students must apply for their own feathers if he or she wishes.
7. Applicants will be telephoned and notified in writing of the results of the decision of the Elders Council.
8. Successful applicants are obligated to obtain their feathers and other items in person at the Feather Issuance Ceremony to be held in late May of each year in Saskatoon.
9. Successful applicants are responsible for their travel costs to the Feather Issuance Ceremony.
10. Consistent with First Nations and Indigenous ancestral protocols, an offering of tobacco shall be presented at the Feather Issuance Ceremony.
11. At the Feather Issuance Ceremony, the successful applicants will be spoken to by Elders on the responsibilities and use of appropriate protocols for the handling of feathers and/or talons/bone parts.



## **Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Center (SICC) Birds of Prey Policy**

### **Purpose**

This policy provides a means of distributing feathers and other items from birds of prey, mainly Eagles, Hawks and Ravens acquired by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment for ceremonial and spiritual use to First Nations individuals and to First Nations institutions.

### **Background**

First Nations people throughout Saskatchewan: Plains Cree, Woodland Cree, Swampy Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Dakota, Lakota and Nakota language groups of Saskatchewan, recognize the value of birds of prey, their feathers and/or body parts relating to First Nations ceremonies and spirituality.

Through cultural teachings, First Nations Elders have passed on knowledge of how these sacred birds could help in the fulfillment of sacred vows and prayers. As the Eagle carries our prayers to the Creator, the Eagle feather is one of the most sacred and honoured gifts given to an individual. An Elders teaching is that to receive a feather is the equivalent to and represents receiving life. First Nations people believe that the Eagle has spiritual powers and is considered by First Nations as a grandfather and is part of our First Nations families.

Because Eagles are sacred, the spiritual powers remain in the feathers and body parts after the Eagle perishes. By accepting Eagle feathers and body parts, we as First Nations people are obligating ourselves to take care of the feathers and body parts to acknowledge their sacredness and the spiritual powers that remain. First Nations people's obligation is to know and understand the cultural teachings associated with proper protocol needed to acquire feathers and body parts and the protocols for on-going care after receiving the feathers and body parts.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment is responsible for managing the province's wildlife resources and this policy provides the opportunity for the provincial government to acknowledge First Nations peoples relationship with all of creation, in particular, birds of prey. Under no circumstance are these birds of prey items to be sold for profit or financial gain, which is reflected by the protected species legislation of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment.

### **Scope**

This policy will assist the SICC and Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment effectively in the distribution of birds of prey items. All applications will be checked for transparency of information and references contacted. The SICC Elders Council will ultimately have the final say to the results of birds of prey distribution.

A meeting will be called by the SICC President to screen the applications. Upon completion of these tasks, the applicants will be notified. It is imperative that applicants pick up their own items at the Feather Issuance ceremony to present the cloth and tobacco offering (an Elders teaching) before items can be presented.

This policy is for members of Saskatchewan First Nations and is for ceremonial and cultural activities originating from the Saskatchewan traditional area.

### **Process**

Eagles and other birds of prey have been accidentally killed are often found and then are turned over to Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment catchment areas. After all birds of prey are recovered from regional catchment areas, they are forwarded and held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan for pick up by the SICC.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment will provide the SICC with birds of prey, who will in turn, provide these birds, their feathers and/or body parts to successful applicants.

This policy is not intended to supersede policy 630-59 and people will continue to be allowed to mount legitimately acquired and protected wildlife.

This policy is not to be viewed as a relaxing of enforcement on anyone who kills birds of prey illegally.

### **Procedure and Responsibilities**

1. Applications for birds of prey feathers and/or body parts by Saskatchewan First Nations members will be available at the SICC, Tribal Councils or, through First Nations Band Offices. (Application Form appended to policy) and are to be sent to the SICC in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (Address on Application Form).
2. The SICC will receive, organize and prioritize applications for the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre Elders Council.
3. The SICC President will call a meeting where the SICC Elders Council will screen all the applications and make their recommendations for successful applicants.

In regards to the giving of feathers, the following priorities will be used:

- a. Ceremonies – ceremonies must originate from Saskatchewan traditional areas
- b. Eagle Staff
- c. Head Dress and Bonnets
- d. Achievement Awards: Doctoral Candidates, Masters Candidates, Undergraduate – students must apply for their own feather(s) with supporting letters from parents or grandparents (or equivalent) as well as references.

The SICC Elders Council has determined that the following will be ineligible:

- a. Pow Wow outfits and regalia
- b. Persons under the age of 18
- c. Elementary and secondary students

All applicants will be notified of the status of the results.

4. Successful applicants who are unable to attend the Feather Issuance will have a period of one month to pick up with items from the SICC with proper protocol or their items will be forfeited. Additionally, the applicant will be ineligible to apply again for a period of two years.
5. A staff member of the Cultural Resource Management department of the SICC will pick up the birds of prey from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment and prepare the Eagles and other birds of prey feathers and body parts in preparation for the Feather Issuance.
6. After a ceremonial Sweat Lodge, the birds of prey feathers and body parts will be distributed once a year, based on the availability of birds of prey at a Feast and Feather Issuance Ceremony (late May of each year) sponsored by the SICC. A Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment official and appointed SICC Elders Council member will sign the Birds of Prey permit for the successful applicants.
7. A staff member of the Cultural Resource Management department of the SICC will submit a final report for the Birds of Prey Program to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment for the current year.

### **Saskatchewan Legislative Reference**

Sections 4 and 6 of the *Wildlife Act* Government of Saskatchewan.

### **Appendix**

Birds of Prey Application Package

### **Approval**

Both the SICC Elders Council and the SICC Board or Governors must approve the policy to put the policy into effect.

### **Approval Dates**

The SICC Elders Council approved this policy on: May 10, 2017

The SICC Board of Governors approved this policy on: July 6, 2017

This policy takes effect on: July 6, 2017

Cultural Resource Management Department  
SICC Birds of Prey Policy – July 6, 2017

**Policy Owner**

Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre

Contact:

Wanda Wilson, President

Phone: 306-244-1146

Email: [wanda.wilson@sicc.sk.ca](mailto:wanda.wilson@sicc.sk.ca)