



Elders Protocol

Protocols for working with St. Thomas University's Elders in Residence and Indigenous Guest Speakers

- When requesting an Elder to attend a function at the University, first and foremost, one or a combination of gifts/offerings of Tobacco, Sage, Sweetgrass or Cedar must be given to the Elder. These gifts/offerings are available at the Wabanaki Centre or the Deans' Office for events on campus. For events off campus, gifts can be purchased from Sacred Arts (located at 150 Cliffe St, Fredericton, NB E3A 5G7). We recommend that you present the offering to the Elder prior to beginning the event. Offerings are used in Elders' personal ceremonies. The Elder will convey intentions from the event to all creation and ancestors to guide the people who attended the event.
- Other gifts of appreciation may also be appropriate.
- At conferences, banquets, or other public functions, the host will give a Land Acknowledgment and then invite the Elder to come forward to bring a traditional welcome.
- For classes or other on-campus events not open to the public, please contact the Director of Indigenous Initiatives, Sonja Perley (sperley@stu.ca), if you wish to have an Elder or other member of the Wabanaki Centre staff participate. |
- If planning to serve alcohol during a conference or banquet, please ask the Elder if they are comfortable to do the welcoming.
- No honorarium is expected for STU Elders or staff members participating in STU events on campus. For events held off campus or for non-STU events, Elders should be offered an honorarium.
 - Include travel and lodging if the event is early morning or full day event
 - \$400 for opening and closing an event, \$600 for ½ day, \$1000 - \$1200 for full day. These rates have been determined by group of Elders and the provincial government.
- Please be advised that the Director of Indigenous Initiatives is available for any advice related to engaging with Indigenous organizations or guest speakers outside of STU.
- If you're unsure of the protocols, please ask the Elders and Wabanaki Centre Staff.