

# Press Release



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## **CEMA Unites Elders for Workshop**

**Fort McMurray, Alberta** – The Cumulative Environmental Management Association (CEMA) is hosting its annual Elders Workshop at the Fort McMurray Lion's Park. Aboriginal Elders & youth from communities in Fort Chipewyan, Fort McKay, Fort McMurray, Anzac, Conklin, and Chard will unite for a day long workshop.

CEMA's Elders Workshop is an opportunity to discuss how CEMA is addressing the environmental issues of importance to the Aboriginal stakeholders in the region. It is a chance for Elders to share first hand stories about First Nations and Métis culture, practices and way of life. An important element to the workshop is for youth to listen and learn from the Elders about their history and traditions over hundreds of years in Alberta. The workshop will also include presentations about CEMA programs, information on the Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK) Mentoring Program, a Cree & Dene language session, a history of waterways, and a presentation of the Air We Breathe Video.

"Each year Elders, including me, congregate to celebrate, share and preserve our rich history of the First Nations and Métis communities in this region." stated Fred "Jumbo" Fraser, Traditional Environmental Knowledge Advisory Committee Co-Chair and Elder. "We use this special and limited time to pass on our stories to the next generation. As years go by so do the remaining number of Elders, so gatherings like the Elders Workshop are important to protecting our traditional knowledge."

Traditional environmental knowledge is a body of local environmental knowledge and beliefs transmitted through oral tradition and first hand observation, based on living in close contact with nature. It includes a system of classification, a set of empirical observations about the local environment, a system of self management that governs

sustainable resource base, and an understanding of the relationships of living beings (including humans) with one another and their environment.

CEMA is a multi-stakeholder society that is a key advisor to the provincial and federal governments committed to respectful, inclusive dialogue to make recommendations to manage the cumulative environmental effects of regional development on air, land, water and biodiversity.

For more information please visit [www.cemaonline.ca](http://www.cemaonline.ca)

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Corey Hobbs  
CEMA Communications  
780-881-4943  
[Corey.hobbs@cemaonline.ca](mailto:Corey.hobbs@cemaonline.ca)