

TAKU WAKAN: SOMETHING SACRED

Summary

This workshop provides a rare and intimate window into the lives of two Indigenous Spiritual leaders whose inspiration through Sacred instruction and struggles with non-indigenous oppressive systems fuel their passion to work for change. This presentation includes learnings of Dakota history, culture and spirituality through an exploration of the Indian Residential School experience, holistic wellness from an Indigenous perspective and traditional spiritual and healing practices.

Biographies



Pahan Pte San Win, BSW, RSW is an Indigenous Spiritual Caregiver to incarcerated youth at the Manitoba Youth Centre. With a degree in social work from the University of Calgary, Pahan has provided counseling support to residential school survivors, traumatized women and incarcerated men for over twenty-five years. She is also past president of the Association of Social Workers in Northern Canada. Her storytelling pursuits include awards for best writing by an Aboriginal Student, Grant MacEwan College; host and producer of, “Good Medicine Radio Show” Yellowknife, NT; a blog titled, “I Married a Holy Man” and contributor to the anthology, *Keetsahnak /Our Murdered and Missing Indigenous Sisters* (2018). Perhaps most importantly, Pahan Pte San Win is Sundance Leader to the Sundance of Women. Her vision to have a Sundance with all women dancers that honours our missing and murdered women was realized in 2017 and continues until 2020.



Wanbdi Wakita is a Wicasa Wakan, a Holy Man, who has spent a lifetime making prayers for people. As a residential school survivor, peace keeper with the Canadian Armed Forces and Chief of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Wanbdi has walked many paths. In 2016 he received the Order of Manitoba for his lifelong work to support those in need and to champion a message of healing and unity between all nations. Wanbdi is a gifted counselor and storyteller who possesses a rare breadth of traditional, cultural and sacred knowledge. For over 30 years Wanbdi served in the role of Elder in Canadian Correctional Institutions. More recently he is the Grandfather in Residence to the University of Manitoba Access Program.