

The Tribunal is committed to ensuring that Indigenous Peoples have access to culturally appropriate services that take into account the uniqueness of Indigenous culture and heritage.

Cultural/spiritual practices and customs

A variety of Indigenous cultural and spiritual practices may be used by Indigenous Peoples appearing before the Tribunal. This includes smudging and swearing-in using an eagle feather or some other sacred object. A party may also request the attendance of an Elder or other culturally relevant person.

The Commission has been gifted a blessed eagle feather, which can be used during tribunal dispute resolution (TDR) or at a tribunal hearing. For example, a party can use the eagle feather to affirm their intention to speak the truth during a mediation or while giving evidence. Tribunal staff will work together with parties to understand their teachings and intentions for using the feather to ensure that it is used in a good way during proceedings.

Interested parties should inform the Tribunal Registrar of their request well before the TDR or tribunal hearing. Once the request is made, the Tribunal will reach out to the party in an effort to determine how to best support them. We may ask for additional information about the cultural practice being requested, including what teachings and practices the party would like incorporated.

Contact the Tribunal Office

Website albertahumanrights.ab.ca/tribunal

Email address AHRCTribunal@gov.ab.ca

Phone 780-638-4635

To call toll-free within Alberta, dial 310-0000 and then enter the area code and phone number.

TTY service for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing: to call toll-free within Alberta, dial 1-800-232-7215.