Tribunal Practice Direction



Indigenous cultural/spiritual practices at Tribunal proceedings

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/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. If a Tribunal hearing is in person, a blessed eagle feather can be made available for an Indigenous party's usage while affirming or giving evidence.

Interested parties should inform the Tribunal Registrar of their request well in advance of a Tribunal Dispute Resolution (TDR) or Tribunal hearing. In the request, the Indigenous party should provide the details of the culturally appropriate practice they are requesting, or a description of the cultural supports they require at their TDR or hearing.

In some cases, the Tribunal Registrar may ask for more information on the requested practice in an effort to determine how best to support the party.

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.