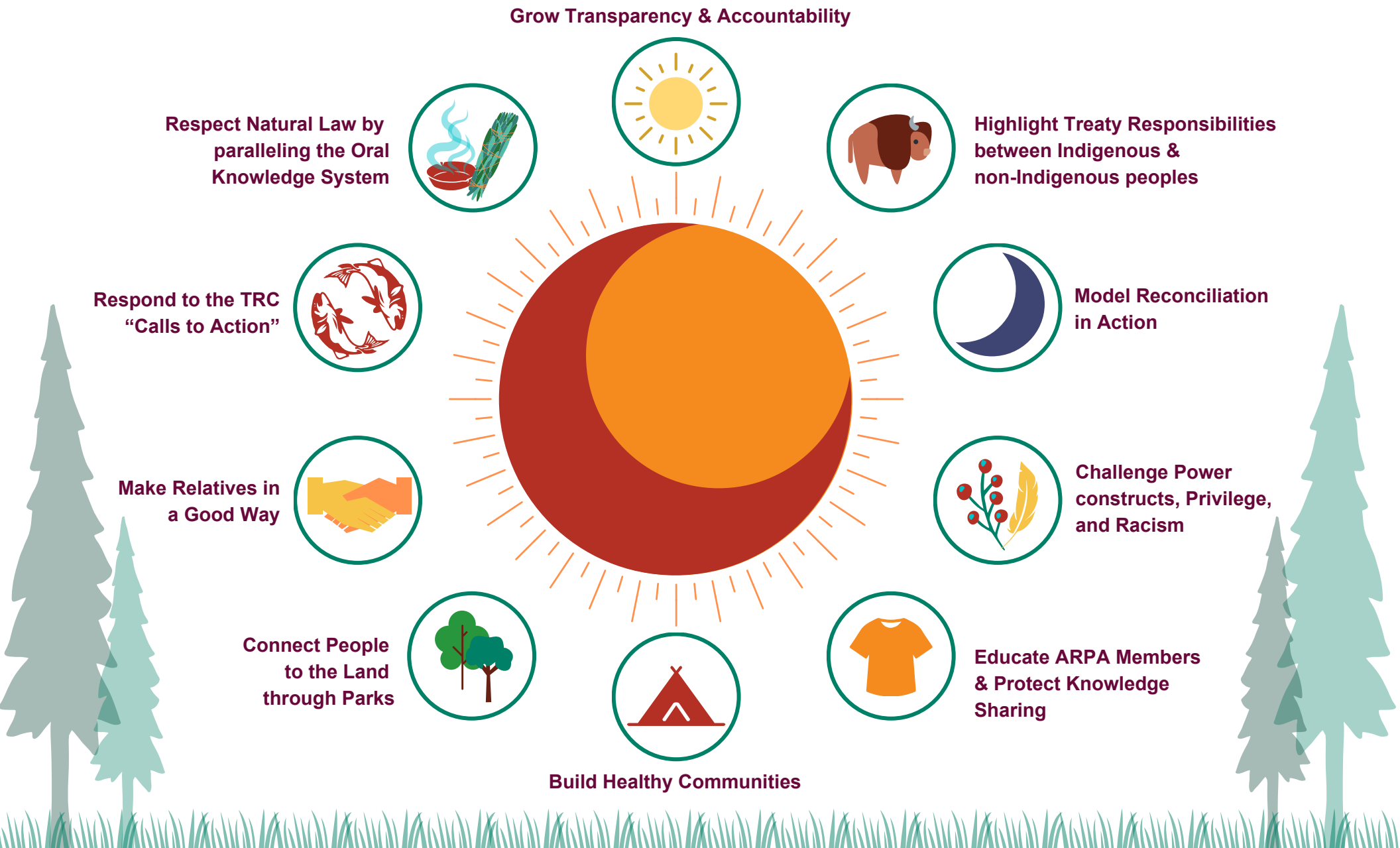


WALKING WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES: ARPA's Action Map



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Grow Transparency & Accountability

ARPA acknowledges that our shared colonial past with Indigenous communities has caused historic hurts and mistrust. In light of this, we commit to growing transparency and accountability through open communication, suspension of our own agendas, and improving the relationship between the recreation and parks sectors with Indigenous communities.

- Creating the resource, [Recreation, Parks, and Justice: Advocating for MMIWG2S+ individuals in Alberta](#)
- Featuring Indigenous voices at the ARPA Annual Conference as well as at our other educational events
- Prioritizing the needs and interests of Indigenous Elders and partners



Highlight Treaty Responsibilities between Indigenous & non-Indigenous peoples

As Albertans, we all have treaty rights and responsibilities. By understanding our shared colonial history, Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples can renew our relationships with each other and move towards meaningful reconciliation. ARPA commits to educating our members about these treaty-based responsibilities.

- Hosting The KAIROS Blanket Exercise at the ARPA's Annual Conference & Energize Workshop
- Educating members about treaty responsibilities through online learning like the [Reconciliation Pop Ups](#)
- Adding more modules to the Communities ChooseWell HERS e-Course on [Indigenous Traditional Food Systems](#) and [Indigenous Food Sovereignty](#)



WALKING WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES: ARPA's Action Map



Model Reconciliation in Action

ARPA models reconciliation by actively paralleling Indigenous cultural practices and honouring diverse perspectives in its administrative procedures, programs and events. Our goal is to set an example for broader recreation and parks sector-based reconciliation efforts.

- Hosting the inaugural ARPA Educational Round Dance and Indigenous Artisan Market at the 2024 ARPA Annual Conference & Energize Workshop
- Hiring Mahegun Tails Inc., an Indigenous-led consulting group, to assist ARPA in its reconciliation-based work
- Creating the [Embracing Smudge in Recreation Spaces Resource](#)



Challenge Power Constructs, Privilege, and Racism

ARPA strives to challenge power constructs, privilege, and racism by fostering cross-cultural understanding and working together towards a more equitable future. By confronting biases, fostering open dialogue, and creating equal opportunities for all, ARPA aims to tackle systemic barriers and encourage sector-based change.

- Committing to extensive anti-racism and cultural awareness training for the ARPA staff
- Launching Community Compass employee-based resources for equity-deserving groups like the [Indigenous Employee Toolkit](#) in collaboration with longtime friend and partner, Kacey Yellowbird
- Celebrating Indigenous Elders' voices through webinars, trainings, and the opening Keynote at the 2023 ARPA Annual Conference & Energize Workshop



WALKING WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES: ARPA's Action Map



Educate ARPA Members and Protect Knowledge Sharing

The education of our membership is one of the key priorities of ARPA. We will use our events, educational opportunities, and online platforms to share our own reconciliation journey as well as resources on how others can advance theirs. This includes protecting the knowledge of those, like Indigenous Elders, who join us in this work.

- Launching the online Indigenous [Oral Knowledge Hub](#)
- Creating the [Indigenous Awareness and Engagement Toolkit](#)
- Expanding the Reconciliation Stream at the annual ARPA Conference to highlight Indigenous stories and voices



Build Healthy Communities

ARPA is committed to ensuring Albertans use recreation and parks as essential resources for enhancing the well-being of individuals, communities and our natural and built environments. Healthy communities are ones where diverse voices are celebrated, many perspectives are used to safeguard our environments, and resiliency takes on many forms.

- Granting Communities ChooseWell's [Healthy Community Grants](#) to Indigenous communities and organizations
- Hosting the [Grandmothers' Circle Series](#) that discusses issues and topics around wellness from female, Indigenous Elder & perspectives
- Creating an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Siksika Health Services – the very first MOU that ARPA has had with a First Nation



WALKING WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES: ARPA's Action Map



Connect People to the Land through Parks

ARPA understands that there is a reciprocal relationship between the land and people who recreate on it. This relationship must honour those who have been its stewards for time immemorial as well as all of our plant and animal relatives. ARPA commits to the advocacy of, and to the education on, this important relationship that Indigenous peoples have with the land.

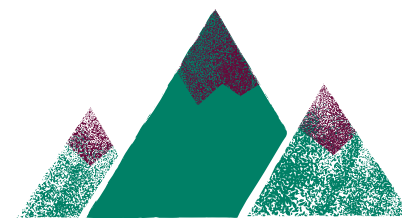
- Hosting a Blackfoot Tea Dance Ceremony to honour the role of parks in reconciliation
- Creating the [Nature Connection in Recreation Toolkit](#)
- Collaborating with a group of multi-nation Elders in the Treaty 7 area on an Elders' Circle about Parks



Make Relatives in a Good Way

At ARPA, we look beyond organizational-based relationships to see, instead, how we can become genuine relatives to our partners, allies, Indigenous communities, and to each other. This means partnering with those with similar values, goals, and an invested interest in making positive change together.

- Supporting the creation and transition of the Elders Knowledge Circle Society (EKCS) into an independent, self-governing non-profit organization
- Working with multiple Indigenous-led organizations, partners, & Elders in the implementation of the [Elder Capacity Building Culture Camps](#)
- Hosting multiple panels, webinars, and discussions on how our members can partner in a genuine way with Indigenous communities and organizations



WALKING WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES: ARPA's Action Map



Respond to the TRC “Call to Actions”

The 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) was a rallying call to the recreation and parks sector in Alberta. ARPA will answer the “Calls to Actions” and use it as foundational elements in both our current reconciliation efforts as well as in the building blocks of future activities.

- Including Reconciliation-based activities in the ARPA Strategic Plan
- Creating the role of the Communities ChooseWell Engagement & Allyship Officer as well as the insertion of reconciliation-based duties in all ARPA staff job descriptions
- Featuring Dr. Wilton Littlechild, Commissioner for the TRC, at the 2016 ARPA Annual Conference & Energize Workshop as the launch of the new Reconciliation Stream



Respect Natural Law by Paralleling the Oral Knowledge System



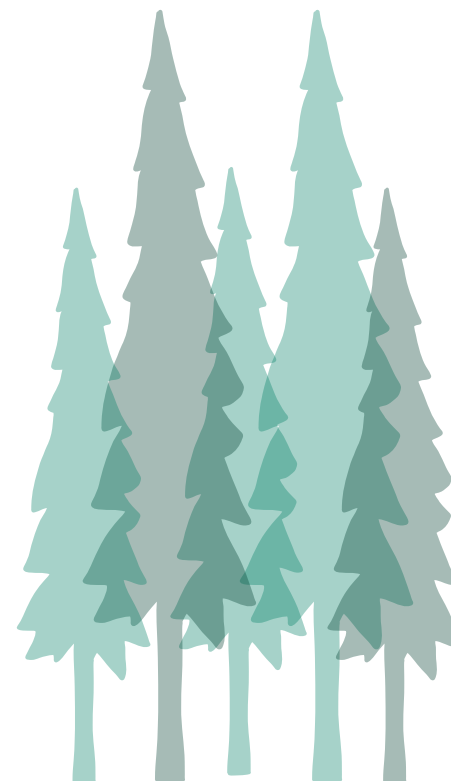
ARPA acknowledges that there are many ways to see and understand the world around us. We strive to respect and parallel the oral knowledge system with our own written and mainstream system. This means engaging in challenging conversations, supporting the Indigenous Elders and allies, and committing to continually learning and growing.

- Re-focusing conversations around parks and land-based teachings to include Indigenous perspectives and world views
- Opening Staff and Board meetings with a smudge
- Commissioning Spike Eaglespeaker Jr to create the ARPA Honour Song

ARPA's Reconciliation Journey

On February 20, 1950, Alberta Recreation & Parks Association (ARPA) was established. Its principal objective being the stimulation and advancement of recreation and parks services, programs, and development in Alberta.

For nearly the next 75 years, ARPA has been advocating for the role of recreation and parks as essential resources for enhancing the well-being of individuals, communities and our natural and built environments. In 2015, following the release of the “Calls to Action” from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), ARPA expanded this journey by commissioned Mahegun Tails Inc., an Indigenous-led consulting group, to do a study on how ARPA could be a better ally to Indigenous communities in the province. This led to the creation of the fundamental document: *The Way We Walk in Life* - which has now shaped ARPA's reconciliation journey.



Following the recommendations from *The Way We Walk in Life*, our goal has been to move forward in a good way, in partnership with Indigenous communities and organizations, with the spirit of genuine collaboration and making relatives.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the details of this journey, or visit:

arpaonline.ca/program/walking-with-indigenous-communities/arpas-reconciliation-journey/

