

Opening Ceremony

The 2019 KT Canada Annual Scientific Meeting is fortunate to have Knowledge Holder Sherry Copenace to open the day.

Born and raised in the Ojibway community of Onigaming, Knowledge Holder Sherry Copenace is known for her experience in Indigenous social services and her devotion to Anishinaabe traditions. She speaks her original Language-Ojibway and has great love for the Land, Waters and Peoples. She holds a Masters in Social Work and holds the title of Indigenous Knowledge Holder at the University of Manitoba.

Since 2011, Knowledge Holder Copenace has organized Makoosekawin-Anishinaabe young women coming of age teachings and ceremonies. She is part of a Grandmothers Circle in Kenora and at Nanaandawewigamig. She helps at Anishinaabe Teaching and Sacred Lodges. She is a board member at Wijiiji'idiwag Ikwewag and Animikii Ozozon Family Services and has over 25 years of experience working in Indigenous social services.

What to Expect?^{1,2}

- Knowledge Holder Copenace will lead a smudging ceremony to start the day
- Smudging is a tradition of many First Nations and Métis, which involves the burning of one or more sacred medicines gathered from the earth to purify the air, mind, spirit, and emotions
- The four sacred medicines are tobacco, sage, cedar, and sweetgrass

Be Mindful³

During the smudging ceremony, please:

- Be present in the moment and do not use any mobile device (e.g., laptops, phone, tablets)
- Do not take pictures or video
- Do not talk
- Maintain respectful posture

¹ <https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/a-definition-of-smudging>

² <http://ofl.ca/wp-content/uploads/OFL-Guidelines-for-Indigenous-Smudge-Ceremony.pdf>

³ <https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/first-nation-elder-protocol>