



**HISTORIC TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL LEGAL WEDDING
PERFORMED BY NATIVE ELDER LEONARD SADDLEBACK
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2014 – EDMONTON, ALBERTA**

Aboriginal Elder Leonard Saddleback, Alberta Clergy Registration Number 19816 performed the first-ever legally-recognized Traditional Native Wedding in the Province of Alberta, at 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 12, 2014 in Edmonton, Alberta.

While Native Elders have been performing Traditional Wedding Ceremonies for hundreds of years, there has never before been a Treaty Status, First Nation-recognized Native Spirituality Elder who has been government-licensed as a Native Spirituality Elder and, in that capacity, has performed a legal Traditional Aboriginal Wedding.

In the past, after Native Elders have performed such a wedding ceremony, the bride and groom, in order to make their marriage legal, were later obligated to obtain the services of an Alberta Marriage Commissioner or a Christian Clergy (usually Roman Catholic priest).

Tuesday, August 12, 2014 was the first time in Alberta history that a Native Spirituality Elder has been in a legal position as an actual Clergy to perform both the Traditional Aboriginal Wedding Ceremony and also to have the wedding legally recognized and registered by Vital Statistics, Government of Alberta.

With the exception of the late Native Elder Noel Knockwood of Nova Scotia, who was previously granted the right by the Government of Nova Scotia to perform Native Weddings, there has never before been a Native Spirituality Elder with a government-registered Clergy License who has performed a legal wedding in Canada.

**Congratulations to Elder Leonard Saddleback on this
Historic Occasion.**

