



On behalf of Artistic Director Michele-Elise Burnett and Artistic Producer Tim Johnson, we are reaching out to invite you to virtually participate in the 4th annual **Celebration of Nations: Gathering of Indigenous Arts, Culture and Tradition** that takes place in Niagara, Ontario, Canada this September.

Each year, we proudly welcome participation from many Nations to walk in our Procession of Nations. With the current turn of events this year we have decided to add a virtual twist. Our 2020 theme is our precious FRESH WATER - *The Mighty Niagara and Great Lakes Watershed*, and we'd be honoured to have you share a greeting for a video compilation we are putting together. This year we are asking our Indigenous brothers and sisters from across the globe to share a **non-verbal greeting** of your choice (*a dance, a wave, a wink, a thumbs up, a virtual hug, just have fun with it*) and to take a drink from a glass of water in a short video to signify that we are all drinking from the same cup, that water connects all and water is life! Videos should be at least 10 seconds.

To participate:

1. Record a short video where you take a drink of water (horizontal format). Bring the glass in to the frame from your left, take a drink, and pass the glass out of frame to the right when you've finished taking a drink.
2. You are welcome to share your Nation's flag, to wear traditional regalia (or whatever you'd like) for the video.
3. Please submit your NAME, NATION, and VIDEO as a message to Celebration of Nations Facebook Messenger or by email at celebrationofnations@stcatharines.ca
4. Please submit video by Tuesday 1 September 2020.

The final Procession of Nations video will be shared via Celebration of Nations Facebook page, the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre's Facebook page and YouTube channel on Saturday 12 September @ 10am EST. We would be honoured to have you share your pride as part of the global Indigenous community!

ABOUT: Celebration of Nations will take place virtually from 11– 13 September 2020 via Celebration of Nations Facebook page, the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre's Facebook page and YouTube Channel. The 2020 gathering will feature the theme *Mighty Niagara and the Great Lakes Watershed* and will include a rich variety of performance, teachings, workshops and more including performances and talks from **Kaha:wi Dance Theatre, Lee Harvey Osmond (aka Tom Wilson), Celeigh Cardinal, Lido Pimienta, Christi Belcourt, Santee Smith, Katsi Cook** and many others. This annual and ongoing Indigenous performing and visual arts gathering aims to honour and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding achievements of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples within Canada. Visit www.celebrationofnations.ca for the full virtual schedule and plan to join us!

Please send your greeting by Monday September 1, 2020 via message to Celebration of Nations Facebook page or email to celebrationofnations@stcatharines.ca