



## Background

As a culture-based organization we endeavour to provide services which meet the spiritual, physical, emotional and mental health needs of our clients. Since 1985, Na-Me-Res has provided our clients with culturally appropriate teachings based on the Anishnawbe culture. Based on the changes in the season, Na-Me-Res provided the Aboriginal community with 4 traditional gatherings—Spring Solstice; Summer Solstice; Fall Solstice and Winter Solstice. These gatherings were held at our men's shelter and the community was encouraged to attend. In 2001, Na-Me-Res a decision was reached by management to celebrate the Summer Solstice outside the shelter and bring to the general public in an outside setting. Thus our first annual traditional pow wow/community festival was born and took place at Keelesdale Park. The following year there was a partnership with Tecumseh and our celebration was held at Riverdale Park. That year, Adrienne Clarkson who was the Lt. Governor of Canada attended our event. In 2004 our Annual event was held at Well's Hill Park in Ward 21. It has since been home to our annual venue and has become an event that the entire Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community of GTA looks forward to.

## Annual Traditional Pow Wow

Na-Me-Res (Native Men's Residence) strives to present this event to the community around the summer solstice (June 20-21...dates vary) yearly. Since 2004, Well's Hill Park (St. Clair Avenue West & Bathurst Street West) has been home to our yearly event. Attendance to our event consistently increases every year which includes local residents (Ward 21); individuals both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal from the GTA; business operators, and local dignitaries. Our event is widely advertised through local media; poster distribution; PSA announcements; local newspapers; flyer distribution; and through word of mouth from previous years' attendees; All are welcome to participate in our celebration in recognition Summer Solstice and National Aboriginal Day.

To enable our organization to provide this event to the community, Na-Me-Res' Fundraising Department depends on the sponsorships from Canadian Heritage as well as INAC each year. Private donations/contributions are also actively sought from the private sector as well as in-kind donations of items for our giveaway and feast. Monetary contributions greatly assist to offset the costs of providing honourarium to our elders, traditional dancers, and drummers which assist them with travel and accommodation costs to attend our event. Purchasing of traditional ingredients in order to prepare our feast and also contributions to help offset the costs of park rental and equipment.

As our event grows each year, monetary expenses are dependent on any successful government contributions through provincial, federal and municipal. Every year Na-Me-Res is thankful to the vast majority of contributions from the private sector foundations which proudly support our yearly event.

The contribution from Na-Me-Res consists of staff volunteering for the day at the event, as well as the clients from our 14 Vaughan Road (men's shelter); our Outreach and Support Service; as well as our newly opened 26 Vaughan Road (Sagatay a New Beginning).

### **More Information**

Please call 416-651-6750, Ext. 2233 or if you wish to donate towards our yearly event visit our website at [www.nameres.org](http://www.nameres.org) and download our donation form.