

# Trails Of Our Ancestors

## A Canoe Journey to the Tłı̨chǫ Annual Gathering

The Trails of Our Ancestors was implemented by the Treaty 11 Council in 1992. The Tłı̨chǫ Government continues to support and deliver the Trails Of Our Ancestors to preserve our language, culture and our way of Life.

Through our elders, oral history is passed on to us about how people traveled by canoe in the fall to harvest caribou in the barren lands, collect hides for clothing, equipment, and shelter. Including traveling in the spring, our elders told stories of travel to familiar fishing grounds by birch bark canoe.

The Trials of the Ancestors have always considered to be a vision to re-trace our past and see it through the eyes of our elders. Traveling by canoe, our people honor their ancestors and experience the traditional spirit that will carry on with them for generations. Today, we have had over 2000 people who have participated in the Trials of the Ancestors.



The canoe trip is a lot of hard work but at the end, we have sense of great accomplishment and achievement. The youth share their feeling with fellow team members and families about their once in a life time experience of traveling with canoes on the land. Our youth participants has increased and growing each year.

The Tłı̨chǫ Canoe Journey is to ensure our youth develop a respectful relationship with the land, our spirituality, our ancestors, and experience personal growth. We need our elders to teach us our way of life to regain our identity, retrace our path and develop skills require to be successful.