



## Muskwa-Kechika Storytelling Retreat

### Overview of Retreat:

The retreat is being hosted by Wayne Sawchuk, a photographer and conservationist (<http://www.muskwakechika.com>) who has been conducting guiding trips into the Muskwa-Kechika since 1985. Through his work with industry and wilderness organizations, Wayne has been instrumental in creating a wilderness management area that is serving as a model for remaining wilderness areas in other parts of the world.

The 2015 storytelling retreat seeks to raise awareness of the values of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area and to allow artists interested in storytelling to broaden their individual perceptions of nature and wilderness. Under the mentorship of renowned storytellers Ivan Coyote and Art Napoleon, participants will be expected to create a story at the retreat to be recorded and made available online.

The retreat is being organized by Writing on the Ridge ([www.writingontheridge.com](http://www.writingontheridge.com)), a non-profit organization dedicated to the fostering of arts in northern British Columbia.

The retreat is limited to 12 participants.

### 2015 Storytelling Retreat Mentors:

#### Ivan Coyote



Ivan Coyote was born and raised in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. An award-winning author and a renowned performer, Ivan's first love is live storytelling and over the last nineteen years has become an audience favourite at music, poetry, spoken word and writer's festivals from Anchorage to Amsterdam.

## Art Napoleon



Art Napoleon is an award-winning songwriter, storyteller and humorist with a mystic's heart. He has that rare ability to genuinely connect with audiences without technical gadgetry or gimmicks. Napoleon has a penchant for the surreal and the absurd cloaked in an irreverent tribal spirituality. Add his naughty tall tales about rez life and walking in two worlds and you have an experience that critics call "ancient & powerful."

**Deadline for Application is April 30, 2015 (midnight). Retreat is limited to 12 participants.**

### Date of Retreat:

- The retreat will be held August 16-23, 2015.
- Floatplanes will depart from Muncho Lake (245 kms west of Fort Nelson, BC) on August 16<sup>th</sup> (Muskwa-Kechika Adventures will make the floatplane reservations for participants).
- Participants will spend the next seven days at Mayfield Lake, located on the Gataga River in the Dune Za Keyih Provincial Park, Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, 100 kms south of Muncho Lake, Alaska Highway.
- Floatplanes will return participants to Muncho Lake on August 23<sup>rd</sup> (floatplane service out of the M-K can also be made available to those who are unable to stay for the full duration of the retreat - an extra charge will apply for this service).

### Cost of Retreat:

- Participant costs are \$1,995 each from point of departure at Muncho Lake (includes float plane flights and food at retreat).
- Writing on the Ridge is seeking funding to subsidize participant costs. If participants would like to apply for financial assistance, please let us know on the application form.
- A non-refundable application fee of \$20 is required. If accepted, this fee will be applied to the program fee.
- Upon acceptance, a 50% deposit will be required. Final payment is due June 30, 2015. Prior to this date, applications can be cancelled and your deposit refunded minus a \$250 processing fee. After June 30<sup>th</sup>, monies paid or due are not refundable. If for any reason, we must cancel the retreat, a full refund will be given.
- Payments are by cheque and payable to Muskwa-Kechika Adventures. Mail cheques to Muskwa-Kechika Adventures, c/o Wayne Sawchuk, Box 27, Rolla, BC V0C 2G0. Payments can also be made by e-transfer (contact Wayne at [wsawchuk@pris.ca](mailto:wsawchuk@pris.ca) for details).

## Program:

- Horseback riding, canoeing, hiking, birdwatching and wildlife viewing will be enjoyed. Weather permitting, an overnight pack horse trip into the alpine will also take place.
- Informal presentations by mentors and participants will take place each evening around the campfire. Participants will be invited to discuss their work, their passion for the wild places, or any other topic of interest to them.

## Fitness:

- Participants will be required to climb in and out of a floatplane and to negotiate rough ground around camp. Horseback riding, canoeing, etc. will be optional.

## Weight Restrictions:

Each participant is allowed 70 lbs.

## Communication:

Muskwa-Kechika Adventures has a satellite phone that can be used in emergencies.

## Liability Insurance:

Muskwa-Kechika Adventures carries liability insurance for the artist retreat, as required by the conditions of the park use permit. Contact Wayne Sawchuk if you would like further details on this.

## Travel Costs to Muncho Lake:

Travel costs to reach Muncho Lake are the responsibility of the participant. Air service to Fort Nelson is provided by Air Canada and Central Mountain Air. Greyhound Bus service is available during the summer to Muncho Lake (phone (250) 774-6322 or visit [www.greyhound.ca](http://www.greyhound.ca) to confirm times). You can also travel by personal vehicle.

## Accommodation at Muncho Lake:

The night before the floatplane departure, participants can stay at Muncho either in Northern Rockies Lodge or in a tent in the provincial campsite. Hosts at Northern Rockies Lodge, where the floatplanes will depart, are Urs and Marianne Schildknecht, who also operate Liard Air service. For rates and booking at Northern Rockies Lodge, phone 1-800-663-5269.

## Further Information:

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Wayne Sawchuk by phone (250) 759-4993, email [wsawchuk@pris.ca](mailto:wsawchuk@pris.ca), or snail mail at Box 27, Rolla, BC V0C 2G0.

**NOTE: After June 15<sup>th</sup>, all inquiries should be directed to Donna Kane, phone (250) 759-4993, email [dkane@pris.ca](mailto:dkane@pris.ca).**



# Muskwa-Kechika 2015 Storytelling Retreat Application Form

**Deadline for Application: April 30, 2015 (Midnight) – Retreat is limited to 12 participants.**

(A review panel will assess applications and applicants can expect to hear results by May 15, 2015)

Fee for Retreat: \$1,995 (subsidies toward program fee may be available. Check applicable box below if you wish to be considered for financial assistance)

Cancellation Policy: After June 30<sup>th</sup>, monies paid or due are not refundable. If for any reason, we must cancel the retreat, a full refund will be given.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact (friend/relative) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Pertinent Dietary or Medical Information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Fitness Level (1 is low, 10 is super-athlete) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to be considered for financial assistance toward the program cost?

yes  no

Enclosed:

\$20 Application Fee (non-refundable)

Statement regarding reason for wanting to participate and the contribution you feel you are able to make to the Muskwa-Kechika

Resumé or c.v.

Please print this form and mail, fax, or email it to the following:

Address: Muskwa-Kechika Storytelling Retreat, c/o Wayne Sawchuk, Box 27, Rolla, BC Canada V0C 2G0

Phone/Fax: (250) 759-4993

Email: [wsawchuk@pris.ca](mailto:wsawchuk@pris.ca)

For further information, visit [www.muskwakechika.com](http://www.muskwakechika.com)