



Dakota Information Card



Cànduhupà

Pipe

The pipe is very important to the Dakota people. The White Buffalo Calf Women story tells the story of how the pipe came to the Dakota people. Pipes were carved using special material. The pipe is considered very sacred to the Dakota people. The pipe is used at meetings to remind people to be truthful and honest.

When making treaty agreements, there were protocols that the Dakota people had which included the use of the pipe (also called the calumet) and the exchanging of gifts. A pipe is also used in ceremonies to honour people. The pipe is not to be used for recreation.

Not every Elder has a pipe. If an Elder is chosen to have a pipe they are called a Pipe Carrier or a Pipe Keeper. Being a Pipe Carrier is an earned responsibility. A Pipe Carrier can be a man or a woman, but it is most often a man and there are very few women who have had the honour of being a Pipe Carrier.

Information adapted from:

Danyluk, Stephanie, et al. *Wa Pa Ha Ska: Whitecap Dakota First Nation*. Saskatoon, SK: Whitecap Dakota First Nation and the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, 2016.

"Whitecap Dakota Elders Meetings." Interviews by author 2016-2017