



CAG Sponsorship with Kodiak Herbal

The Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) is proud to sponsor the [Wolf Willow - The Metis Rosary Bush](#) workshop for indigenous youth. Kalyn Kodiak, Métis Herbalist and Cultural Guide from MNA Region 3 in Blackfoot territory Treaty 7, Alberta will be facilitating this opportunity alongside Tamara Himmelspach, the Team Lead at Calgary's *Miskanawah* / [Diamond Willow Youth Lodge](#).

When the wolf willow flowers are in bloom, this workshop will be held at One Spot Crossing Campground on the Tsu T'ina reservation, near the river where the wolf willow grows. By the fire to keep warm, teachings will be shared about respectful harvesting and reciprocity, and responsibility to the earth. Wolf willow blooms will be harvested on site to make traditional perfumed grease, which was used to scent the hair. Tasty treats like 'Metis ice cream' (a wolf willow flavoured fudge) and tea from the leaves and husks will be made, as well as sharing the other uses for the plant like cordage and fibres for rope. Beautiful jewelry or rosaries will be made from the delicate willow wolf seeds. These teachings were shared with Kalyn through her great-great grandmother's writings of her own childhood. The wolf willow flowers are a very special plant, and we are grateful for Kalyn's passion to share this knowledge with young people.

This workshop will host about 20 youth in late April/early May 2022. Tamara will be taking the registrations through Diamond Willow Lodge and keeping records of participants. The CAG's investment will be used for supplies to make the various foods, medicines, and crafts from wolf willow; rental of the space, wood for the fire, snacks and water for participants and instructor fees, as well as any unforeseen costs related to the day.