

First Nations and the Drum

The drum is a powerful instrument. First Nation's people refer to the Drum as the heartbeat of Mother Earth. It is used in many spiritual and sacred ceremonial practices. Some say the beat of the drum has the power to change natural elements, including the weather. It is believed to have the power to heal sickness, and some believe it has the power to send messages both to the animal world and to the spirit world.



These drums were created from bent wood frames, and elk hide and sinew that were soaked in water for 24 hours to soften the materials. The hide was stretched over the wood frame and tied using the sinews to create a drum with a distinctive sound.



First Nations men participate in a drum circle at the Manito Ahbee festival and powwow.