Where the Prairies Meet the Pines

Story Tellers: Cree, Dakota, Dene and Metis people Musical Retelling: Tyrone A. McKenzie

Spanning between 12,000 and 7,500 years ago, this period represents the first archaeological evidence for human occupation in North America. The area was named "kistahpinanihk", meaning "sitting pretty place, or meeting place. It became a gathering place for Dakota Oyate, Dene and Cree peoples.

Metis leader James Isbister was the first to settle and farm in the area in 1862 - an ideal spot to build a life where the prairies meet the pines. In 1866, Reverend James Nisbet arrived and named the new settlement Prince Albert, in honour of the Prince Consort to Queen Victoria.

Where the prairies Meet the Pines is dedicated to the First Peoples and Settlers who gathered together in this beautiful area. The retelling of their story stands on the shoulders of Indigenous storytellers and is meant to honour and represent their contribution and commitment to the land that has been a gathering place for centuries.



