



## Medicine Hat & the Saamis Teepee

All roads lead to Medicine Hat in southeastern Alberta, the city where the Trans-Canada Highway comes together with scenic Highway 3. The city is known for its natural gas fields and was founded in 1883. It was home to the first hospital west of Winnipeg, and its industrial history once earned it the nickname of “the Pittsburgh of the West”.

The name “Medicine Hat” comes from an English translation of the Blackfoot word “Saamis”, which means the eagle feather headdress worn by medicine men. A Blackfoot legend about a retreating enemy medicine man who lost his headdress in the river led to the city’s name.

Also named after this Blackfoot term is the Saamis Teepee, the world’s largest. It was originally built for the 1988 Calgary Olympics. The teepee is made from steel, weighs 200 metric tons, and the main masts are the same length as the height of a 20-storey building!



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