

Mayor Jyoti Gondek
The City of Calgary
P.O. Box 2100, Station M
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themayor@calgary.ca

November 26, 2021

Re: An Indigenous Gathering Place for Calgary

Dear Mayor Gondek,

We know you are supportive of the creation of an Indigenous Gathering Place (IGP) for Calgary – thank you. We are writing this letter to offer our support and to further equip you with a compelling case to make it a reality in 2022. The creation of an IGP aligns well with our work at Momentum to improve economic inclusion, and our vision that every person has a sustainable livelihood and contributes to their community. The IGP also has the potential to position Calgary as a leader in reconciliation efforts, which could contribute to our local economic and social recovery efforts.

Other important reasons to support this initiative are well articulated by the IGP including:

- Access space to provide a consistent point of contact for organizations and individuals within Calgary to develop meaningful relationships with Indigenous Peoples. For example, many organizations in Calgary are seeking to advance reconciliation efforts, but there is no consistent hub where these organizations can connect with one another, share resources, and connect directly with indigenous people regarding their reconciliation efforts.
- A central place to advance reconciliation that welcomes all Calgarians would help to make Calgary a more inclusive and welcoming place for all Calgarians, regardless of their heritage.
- Alberta includes Indigenous topics in the K-12 curriculum, and in post-secondary institutions, skills and employment training organizations, but Indigenous students often learn this limited information through a colonial lens. An IGP would provide a space where Indigenous learners can connect with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and members of their community about culture, traditions, and language in a traditional way that is not guided by colonial practices.
- As a space that would be welcome to all Calgarians, the IGP would provide an opportunity for Indigenous allies to be educated on Indigenous issues, and learn about culture, directly from Indigenous Peoples.

For further information, visit <https://indigenousgatheringplace.ca/>. We are hopeful that your leadership and commitment to reconciliation will make an IGP a reality.

Sincerely,



Jeff Loomis, Executive Director, Momentum

Cc:

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