

March 24, 2021

City Council
The City of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta

Dear Mayor Nenshi and Councilors,

We are writing in support of the Indigenous Gathering Place Society's mission to work with The City of Calgary towards the realization of an Indigenous Gathering Place, ideally, at the Fort Calgary site. The confluence at the Fort Calgary site is culturally significant to Indigenous Elders and people because it is the location where cultural gatherings and sacred ceremonies took place prior to the arrival of settlers. Indigenous Elders and people in the Calgary area continue to have a spiritual connection to the Fort Calgary site.

We know that the Indigenous population in Calgary is over 42,000 and growing. Increasingly, we are hearing from Indigenous Elders, people and organizations that a place to practice and nurture Indigenous culture, ceremony, spirituality and language is needed in Calgary.

The City of Calgary established a firm commitment to Truth and Reconciliation through the development of the White Goose Flying Report (2016) that establishes which of the 94 Calls to Action are actionable by the Calgary municipal government.

The recommendation in the White Goose Flying Report responding to Calls to Action # 21, 22 and 48ii call upon The City to work collaboratively to seek real estate, appropriate infrastructure, public buildings, gardens and parkland for Indigenous ceremonial, cultural, commemorative activities as well as healing. The achievement of an Indigenous Gathering Place would be a decisive expression of reconciliation by The City of Calgary.

In addition, City Council also passed a Council Indigenous Policy in 2017 that supports City Administration in *Ways of Knowing, Ways of Engaging, Ways towards Equitable Environments and Ways of Building Relationships with Indigenous people*. An Indigenous Gathering Place aligns with the Indigenous Policy's four ways forward and presents opportunities for collaboration with The City.

The Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee supports the Indigenous Gathering Place Society and encourages The City to work in partnership with the society to make the Indigenous Gathering Place a reality. We look forward to your response.

Respectfully,



Justin Jimmy,
Chair, CAUAC



Eileen Clearsky,
Vice Chair, CAUAC