

In Calgary, there are over 500 faith-based places of worship and not one is specifically intended for Indigenous Peoples.

Since time immemorial, the Nitsiitapi (Blackfoot people) have been in the Calgary area and surrounding territory. The Blackfoot people have a historically significant connection to Calgary, known as Moh'kinsstis.

This area is especially significant to the Siksika Peoples (member of the Blackfoot Confederacy), as this place is where "Napi" (Creator) created people.



Alberta has the third largest Aboriginal population among other provinces and territories in Canada¹



Calgary has the fifth largest urban Aboriginal population in Canada²

44%

of the Aboriginal population in Calgary are under 25 years old³

STRATEGIC ACTIONS & NEXT STEPS

1. INDIGENOUS GATHERING PLACE (DISCOVERY)

Overview

- Traditional and Western Practices, Shared Purpose, Ethical Space, and Blended Process

2. SHARED PURPOSE & VALUES (WHY)

- Mission Statement
- Values and Value Statements

3. CREATING A SPACE (WHAT)

- IGP Committee
- Moh'kinsstis
- Indigenous and Community Engagement
- *A Case for the Indigenous Gathering Place*

4. BUILDING AN IGP (WHO AND WHERE)

Process

- Design Concept
- Sustainable Revenue
- IGP Governance Structure
- Identify Site
- Meet Government & Agencies

5. PRACTICE (WHERE)

- Due Diligence
- Architectural Concept Plan
- Comprehensive Business Plan
- Financing and Funding
- On-going Engagement

6. APPLICATION (HOW)

- Land Acquisition, Architectural Design, Construction and Occupancy

For inquiries about how you can support the Indigenous Gathering Place, please contact our co-chairs, Eve MacMillan and John Fisher.

Eve MacMillan (Co-Chair)
John Fischer (Co-Chair)

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TREATY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is acknowledged that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Blackfoot (Kainai, Piikani, and Siksika), Tsuut'ina, and Stoney Nakoda people (Treaty 7), as well is the homeland of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.

A CASE FOR THE INDIGENOUS GATHERING PLACE

The Indigenous Gathering Place is the space where we will share, connect, heal, renew and celebrate Indigenous culture.

In this space we can protect traditional Indigenous practices, languages, and Elders' wisdom, oral and written teachings, among all nations and all our relations.

1. Statistics Canada, Population and Demographic Distribution-Aboriginal Statistics at a Glance: 2nd Edition, Pg. 5.

2. Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Fact Sheet for Alberta, Pg. 1.

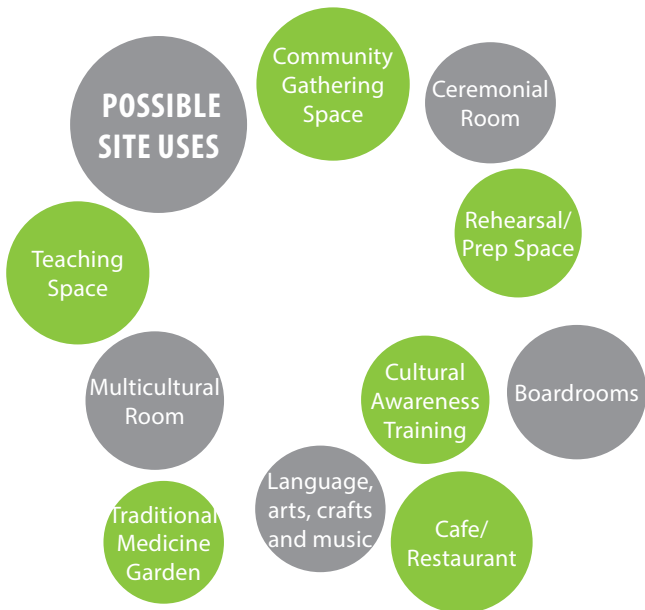
3. City of Calgary Demographics

The Indigenous Gathering Place is a community-driven collective vision of a physical space where peoples of Calgary and area can learn and practice cultural, historical and spiritual traditions associated with Indigenous ancestry.

VISION

- Located on 5-10 Acres of land with a large area near a river and natural setting.
- Facility of 21-30,000 square feet
- Indoor space to accommodate approximately 300-400 people
- Outdoor space to accommodate approximately 500-1,000 people
- Estimated cost is \$13M-\$18M

The land must hold meaning with capacity and cultural significance to hold ceremonial practices. Our ambition to have the Indigenous Gathering Place located in Calgary.



In Canada, the Indian Act and other legislation and policies were created to dismantle traditional systems, and convert Indigenous Peoples to Christianity to assimilate them so that they would conform with the mainstream colonial society. This was manifested in several ways, such as Indian reserves, residential schools, and the banishment of cultural ceremonies, languages, and protocols.

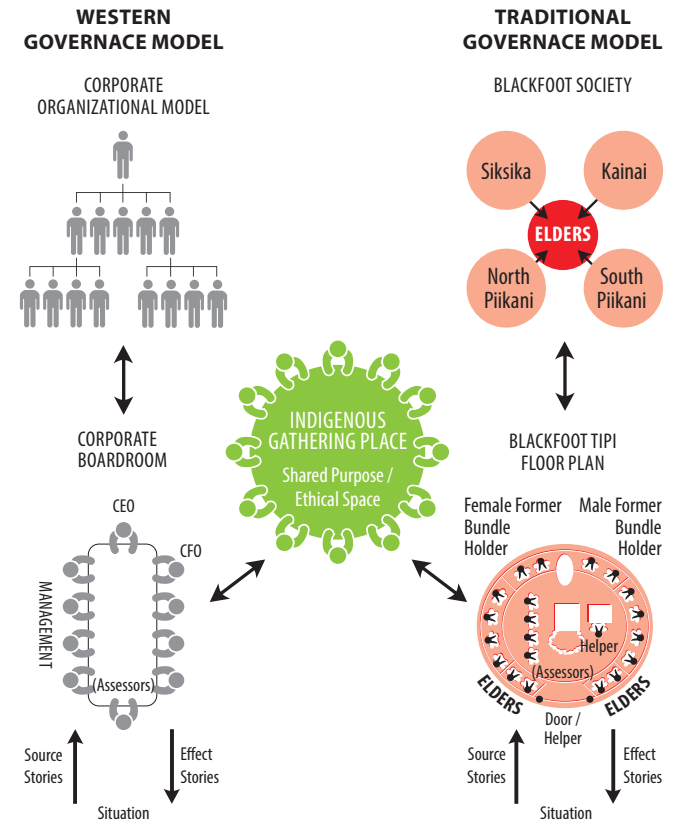
In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) released 94 official Calls to Action as part of the Canadian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement which clearly articulate and defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples to maintain and preserve their cultures, languages, traditions, and life-ways recognizing the damaging impacts aggressive assimilation policies had, and continue to have on Indigenous Peoples.

Through their formal endorsements of the TRC 94 Calls to Action and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), both the Provincial Government of Alberta and Federal Government of Canada have shown their support for the fundamental rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Both UNDRIP and the TRC Calls to Action outline elements of reconciliation that could be supported by the Indigenous Gathering Place in Calgary, as similar concepts have shown success elsewhere.

A Case for the Indigenous Gathering Place has been published by a seven-member board, consulting agency and over two dozen committee members of the Indigenous Gathering Place Society—a non-profit organization formed in direct response to the call for a reconciled Canada.

A Case for the Indigenous Gathering Place outlines three years worth of collaborative effort and community engagement infused with traditional spiritual practices and abides Western methodological business approach—one of the first of its kind to recognize both Western and Traditional practice as equals, respecting both according to their laws.



Source: Model and process adapted from discussion and input from Reg Crowshoe, July 10, 2017, and prepared by Aaron Aubin, Aaron Aubin Consulting Inc.

Our values are based on the Seven Sacred Teachings

Respect	Courage
Love	Truth
Humility	Honesty
Wisdom	