

Eve MacMillan
John Fischer
Co-Chairs, Indigenous Gathering Place Society of Calgary

Dear Eve MacMillan and John Fischer:

In our reconciliation journey, Calgary Foundation is committed to building meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities, and incorporating strategies based on mutual respect and traditional knowledge. For this reason, the Foundation is supportive of the development of an Indigenous Gathering Place (IGP) within the city. The IGP lays out a community-driven collective vision of a physical space where peoples of Calgary and area can learn and practice the cultural, historical and spiritual traditions associated with Indigenous ancestry.

Currently Calgary lacks a designated spiritual and culture space for Indigenous peoples. The need for such a space was identified by the community over 30 years ago and over the years remains in alignment with the City of Calgary's White Goose Flying Report and City Cultural Plan, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, and the IGP's own engagement with the urban Indigenous community and Elders of all nations.

The Foundation has financially supported the Indigenous Gathering Place Society to develop a Western business plan alongside a parallel Indigenous strategy. We supported the engagement of Elders from across Treaty 7 territory to learn more about potential locations for the site, and to bring the discussion of these sites into a cultural and ceremonial context. We have also supported the society to further conversations with the City of Calgary and to secure architectural and engineering expertise. In total we have provided \$190,000 in grants to this important initiative.

We are excited to express our support for this very important project and committed to see it become a reality.

Best wishes,



Eva Friesen
President and CEO