

February 15, 2022

Dear Members of Calgary City Council,

On behalf of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, I write to share support for the Indigenous Gathering Place Society's initiative to create an Indigenous Gathering Place (IGP), a physical space for celebrating, sharing and connecting Indigenous cultures in Calgary.

Calgary prides itself on taking meaningful action to be a welcoming and inclusive city for all. From gathering places in parks to public spaces that acknowledge the diverse history and culture that has shaped our city, our vibrancy and appeal has long been predicated on a city that opens its arms. It's why today, we are the third most diverse city in Canada and it's a key reason why people choose Calgary as the place to build a life and livelihood.

While many organizations, businesses and individuals are engaged in meaningful work to further reconciliation, Calgary currently lacks a designated place for these stakeholders to develop meaningful relationships with Indigenous peoples. An IGP could become an important focal point for our community to engage with Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Indigenous community members to learn, teach, connect and celebrate the ways of knowing and doing.

The Calgary Chamber has long advocated for inclusive economic growth, which translates into having a business community that provides more seats at the table for those historically marginalized. Establishing an IGP is an important step to advancing action on inclusion and creating welcoming spaces for all members of our community to participate and connect with opportunity.

For these reasons, we support Council to direct Administration to take meaningful steps to create a designated IGP as a tangible example of our commitment as a City – to build a more welcoming, inclusive and attractive city for everyone.

Sincerely,



Deborah Yedlin
President and CEO
Calgary Chamber of Commerce