

Metis Calgary Family Services Society

Ke Mama Nnanik Family Support, Medicine Wheel Early Learning Centres,
Aboriginal Students Program, Native Network Family Resource & Parent Link Centre, Elders Program,
Rainbow Lodge, Little Sundance Child Care Centre

City of Calgary Council
c/o
The City of Calgary
P.O. Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

Attention: Her Worship Jyoti Gondek

February 3, 2022

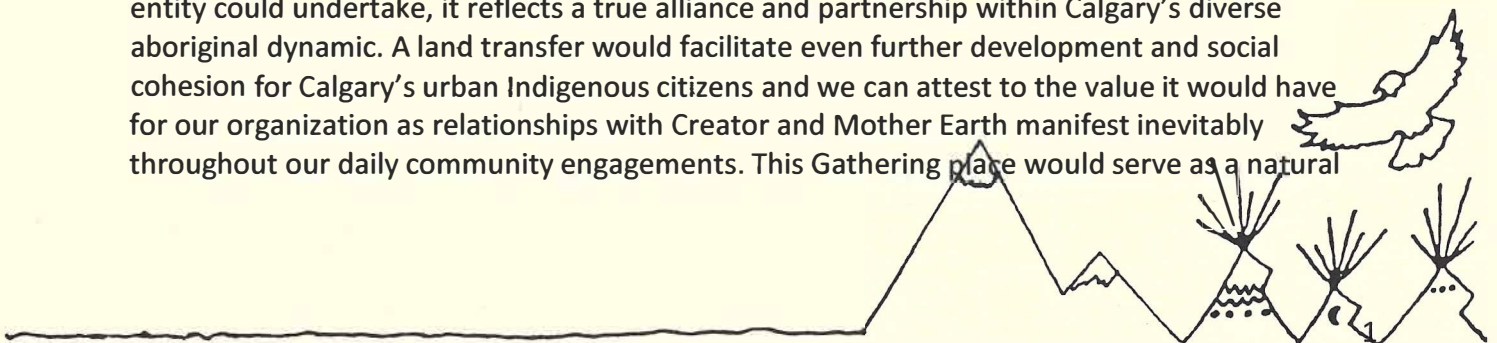
Regarding; Indigenous Gathering Place Support

Metis Calgary Family Services Society is an urban Aboriginal organization established in Calgary in 1992, and we encourage the City of Calgary Council, by way of land transfer, to assist IGPS in the quest for an urban Aboriginal gathering place.

It is unfortunate that at a time when the urban indigenous population of Calgary exceeds 50,000 individuals, is the fastest growing demographic in urban centres across Canada, and bold overtures for truth, reconciliation and decolonization are being made, that in Calgary currently there is no permanent or designated space dedicated to it Aboriginal citizens for use both in traditional and contemporary ways.

Often land acknowledgments are being verbalized and added to footers, with a context and view to a colonial era process known as treaties with a Nation to Nation dogma, and reiterated with little regard to the relationship with Mother Earth, nor the ceremonies associated with honoring Mother Earth. Relationship with land is fundamental for ceremony and during a time when land acknowledgments focus on constitutional Indian Act parties and treaties, those individuals without status or are disenfranchised from any respective Nation, lack such ceremonial space when Calgary is home. Nor is it practical or fair for the Treaty 7 Nations to facilitate the 50,000 plus remaining urban Indigenous within their own on-reserve capacity, even as those Treaty 7 members constitute a few thousand of the urban indigenous number captured in the City census.

The need for an Indigenous Gathering Place is long over due and we would like to acknowledged the fortitude and spirit of intent demonstrated by this and prior City Council's to support our community. The vision of IGP is a shared one, and much larger than any single entity could undertake, it reflects a true alliance and partnership within Calgary's diverse aboriginal dynamic. A land transfer would facilitate even further development and social cohesion for Calgary's urban Indigenous citizens and we can attest to the value it would have for our organization as relationships with Creator and Mother Earth manifest inevitably throughout our daily community engagements. This Gathering place would serve as a natural

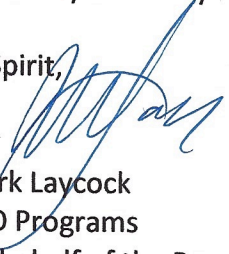


support in many respects and have collateral benefits well beyond the iconography and scope captured here.

We propose that such a land transfer would be viewed as a monumental step for a positive legacy; a legacy for our Elders today and our Elders of tomorrow beyond the next 7 generations with and for all Calgarians. As a benchmark in reconciliation, the space will provide many opportunities for both Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal people who call Calgary and area home.

If we may be of any further assistance in this matter, please feel free to contact us.

In Spirit,



Mark Laycock
CEO Programs
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Metis Calgary Family Services