



October 26, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find this letter in support of Indigenous Gathering Place Society of Calgary.

The Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) is a provincial not-for-profit organization committed to building healthier and engaged communities and citizens by developing and promoting recreation and parks. We have been supportive of the Indigenous Gathering Place Society of Calgary since its early inception following the Calls to Actions from the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada* in 2015. Our own Janet Naclia, Director of People and Programs for ARPA, sat on the IGP Board.

ARPA firmly believes in the power of community and the need for the Indigenous community in Treaty 7 to have its own place to gather, heal, and celebrate culture. We believe it is detrimental that such a facility does not already exist in Calgary. ARPA has seen how community, across the province in many diverse settings, has faltered when its members are unable to access spaces and places built for their own specific wellness and growth.

As part of our own reconciliation journey, ARPA believes in the importance of honouring Indigenous ways of knowing, knowledge translation, and respecting Indigenous oral practices. This commitment means that we embrace these practices by making sure diverse voices are heard and celebrated, creating ethical spaces for sharing, and by inviting Elders to be collaborating partners and guides in what we do.

We believe that the creation of the IGP in Calgary will advance these goals as well and we look forward to a future where all voices are heard, embraced, and celebrated.

In support,

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