

30 July 2019

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

RE: Support for the Indigenous Gathering Place Society of Calgary Application to Infrastructure

Calgary Homeless Foundation (CHF) is pleased to provide this letter in support of the Indigenous Gathering Place Society of Calgary's (IGP) application to Infrastructure.

In 2017 CHF provided funding to support the IGP committee to prepare a business plan based on the need for an Indigenous Gathering Place in Calgary. It was through discussions, meetings and workshops that "A Case for Calgary Indigenous Gathering Place" emerged, and identified the clear need for a physical structure for urban indigenous peoples to gather to practice cultural and spiritual ceremonies. In 2018, this plan was published and it identified six critical next steps, inclusive of the comprehensive IGP Business Case. Since that plan was published, CHF has continued to support and work with the urban Indigenous community and IGP in support of this physical space and accompanying Indigenous programming.

Currently, CHF supports Indigenous Gathering Place Society of Calgary (IGP) by funding through their fiscal agent Sunrise Healing Lodge Society. The IGP is working as a volunteer, nonprofit society to build a culturally safe place for Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples of Calgary to work towards reconciliation. This is a collaborative partnership that embodies a connection to civil society and shared values between IGP and CHF. Additionally, IGP is focused on creating the physical space identified in the business plan for Indigenous Peoples to reconnect with their origins, identities, languages, and protocols - and ultimately heal on the road to reconciliation.

According to our 2018 Point in Time Count, Indigenous persons are overrepresented and account for 20% of the homeless population in Calgary while making up only 3% of the general population. It's clear that the need for an Indigenous Gathering Place for cultural practice, cultural revitalization, and virtuous relationships addressing reconciliation and cultural safety in the urban setting is critical in Calgary. CHF is pleased to endorse this mission and project.

Thank you for considering this request. If I can provide any additional information you can reach me at mattn@calgaryhomeless.com.

Sincerely,



Matt Nomura
Vice President, Calgary Homeless Foundation