

February 11, 2022

Mayor and Council
P.O. Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, AB, T2P 2M5

Subject: Indigenous Gathering Place Notice of Motion

Dear Mayor and Council,

As the Elders and Knowledge Keepers in Calgary, known today as the Elders Knowledge Circle, we hold great fundamental and sacred responsibilities for preserving and protecting our traditional way of life and educating our children. We are writing to share our support for an Indigenous gathering place in Calgary.

The Indigenous Gathering Place will be a space of healing for all Indigenous people who call Calgary home; whether they are First Nations from Treaty 7 or other territories, Métis, or Inuit. It will also be a place for all Calgarians to learn about our cultures, directly from Indigenous people. Most importantly, the Indigenous Gathering Place will be for our youth; those who have been disconnected from our culture and teachings will have a chance to find their way home through Ceremony as they continue to build their lives here in the city.

We are happy that Calgary City Council is considering initiating a land transfer for the purpose of building an Indigenous gathering place at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers. We support the work of the Indigenous Gathering Place Society of Calgary and the efforts they have made over the last number of years to get an Indigenous gathering place built.

As Knowledge Keepers and Elders we look forward to the Indigenous gathering place, a place where we are the books in a library to share our knowledge. Therefore, we respectfully decline involvement in any political issues that arise from or are related to these endeavors.

We have provided the Indigenous Gathering Place Society with consistent advice about the urgency and importance of this place. We are anxious to see an Indigenous gathering place for all peoples built as soon as possible.

With respect and peace,

The Elders Knowledge Circle

Reg Crowshoe, Rosemary Crowshoe, Tina Fox, Anne Paulette Kokak, Herman Many Guns, Diane Meguinis, Vinnia Van Overdyk, Violet March, Frisco, Brenda Manyguns, John Chief Moon, Wallace Alexson, Darryl Brass, Jackie Bromley, Shirlee Crow Shoe, Doreen Healy, Patrick Daigneault, and Francis Melting Tallow