



1715 17th Avenue SE, Calgary, AB T2G 5J1
ywcalgary.ca

February 14, 2022

RE: Letter of Support for the Indigenous Gathering Place

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express YW Calgary's strong support for the creation of an Indigenous Gathering Place in Calgary.

YW Calgary has been advocating for women, gender-diverse people and their families in Calgary since 1910. As the largest and longest serving women's organization in the city, YW Calgary recognizes the intergenerational trauma that Indigenous women have experienced. Our organization is committed to continue learning, advocating for and reconciling with the Indigenous Peoples of our country. We must acknowledge, address and move past our colonial roots. We hear truths that are grounded in generational trauma and racism and know that we must do better.

Part of doing better is implementing Action Items that emerged out of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We understand that the creation of the Indigenous Gathering Place would be consistent with Action 21 within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, which called upon the "federal government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Aboriginal healing centres to address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools."

YW Calgary is grateful for the vision of the IGP as a consistent hub where organizations across the city can connect with one another, share resources, and connect directly with Indigenous People on their ideas surrounding reconciliation. Our organization appreciates the vision of the Indigenous Gathering Place as providing a consistent point of contact for organizations and individuals within Calgary to develop meaningful relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

I understand the Calgary City Council will be considering a motion to direct Administration to take meaningful steps toward identifying and transferring land to the Indigenous Gathering Place Society of Calgary (IGPSC) for the purpose of building an Indigenous Gathering Place near the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers. I hope that the Council will be supportive of this motion, and work together with community partners to implement the vision of the IGPSC.

Sincerely,

Sue Tomney
Chief Executive Officer
YW Calgary