



Indigenous Gathering Place



**There are over 500 places in Calgary devoted to cultures and spirituality
... and not one is specifically dedicated to Indigenous Peoples' ceremonial practices.
Until now.**

Our Vision

A space where we share, connect, heal, renew and celebrate Indigenous cultures.

A place to protect Indigenous practices, languages, and Elders' wisdom, oral and written teachings among all nations and all our relations.

Our ambition is to be operational by 2027 - help us achieve this goal!

Why an Indigenous Gathering Place is Needed

The Indigenous Gathering Place will be a much-needed central gathering place for urban Indigenous Peoples' spiritual, emotional, cultural, and social well-being.

We imagine a place where...

- *Indigenous traditions can be celebrated and enjoyed*
- *Elders can pass on their knowledge*
- *Indigenous youth can connect with important traditions*
- *Non-Indigenous people can learn and celebrate Indigenous cultures*

A Gathering Place for the wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples living in Calgary

Calgary resides on traditional territory and is home to many who identify as having Indigenous ancestry. Indigenous populations are one of the fastest growing urban populations in Canada so it's important they have spaces in urban areas, yet there is no space dedicated to Indigenous Peoples' ceremonial practices in Calgary.

The Indigenous Gathering Place is a timely and tangible response to the Truth and Reconciliation's Call to Action #21 which calls for healing centres to address the needs of Indigenous Peoples living in Calgary.

For Indigenous Peoples by Indigenous Peoples

The Indigenous Gathering Place Society of Calgary works in parallel ways that reflect both Indigenous and Western ways. We are an independent, Indigenous-led non-profit established in 2018 to realize the long-held dream of a place of a culturally safe gathering space for urban Indigenous Peoples in Calgary. We aim to work in relationship with urban Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous-serving and Indigenous-led organizations in Calgary, Treaty 7 First Nations, the Métis Nation of Alberta and the City of Calgary.

The building will have:

- Indoor and outdoor spaces that reflect Indigenous Peoples' ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and harmony with all relations;
- Designated spaces, ie. an Elder's room; and
- Flexible spaces that allow the facility to accommodate small groups for learning and sharing, and large groups for ceremonies and other events.

Programs and services we will offer in partnership with Indigenous-serving organizations:

- Language classes for learners and teachers;
- Dancing, drumming and singing classes and practice space;
- Opportunities for teaching and learning about traditional food, practices, medicines; and
- Venue rental space for ceremony, events and programs.



While many organizations, businesses and individuals are engaged in meaningful work to further **reconciliation**, Calgary currently lacks a designated place for these stakeholders to develop meaningful **relationships** with Indigenous Peoples. An IGP could become an important focal point for our community to engage with Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Indigenous community members to **learn, teach, connect and celebrate** the ways of knowing and doing."

DEBORAH YEDLIN, President and CEO,
Calgary Chamber of Commerce



The Indigenous Gathering Place will be:

- Inclusive and welcoming for all peoples;
- Open to the public; and
- Accessible, near transit and built with mobility and other accessibility measures.

We are planning a place that is designed for:

- Urban Indigenous Peoples, that is hospitable, where they can gather to learn, share and celebrate.
- Elders, knowledge keepers, and members of any Nation to gather, reflect, smudge, share food and participate in ceremony.
- Non-Indigenous people, where they can learn about Indigenous cultures and attend powwows and other large-scale gatherings.



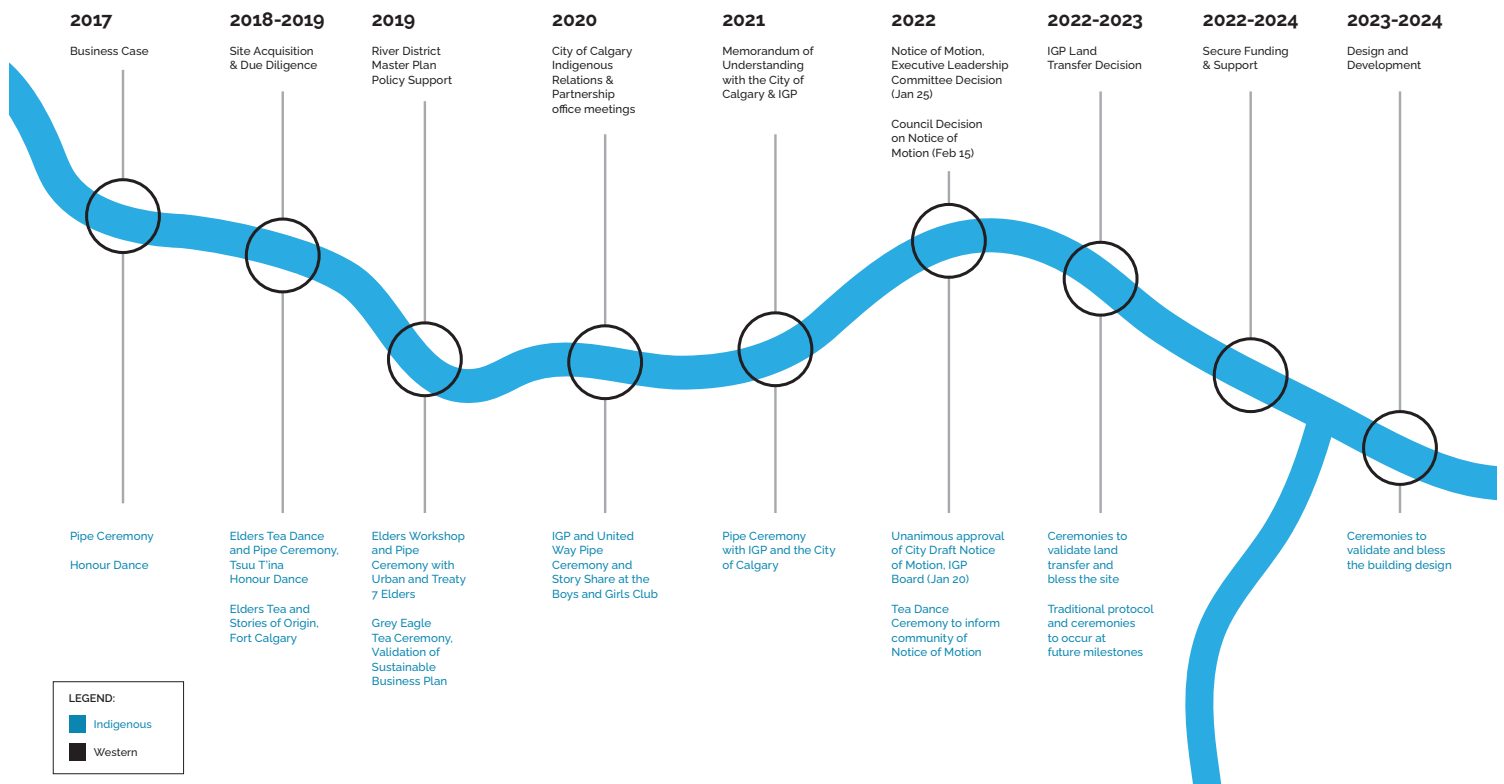
YW Calgary is grateful for the vision of the IGP as a consistent hub where organizations across the city can **connect** with one another, **share** resources, and connect directly with Indigenous Peoples on their ideas surrounding **reconciliation**. Our organization appreciates the vision of the Indigenous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

SUE TOMNEY, CEO *The YWCA of Calgary*



Preparing for 2027

TIMELINE



Current Phase: Pre Construction

We are committed to parallel practices balancing Indigenous and Western protocol every step of the way. The pre-construction phase consists of:

1. Engaging with Indigenous Peoples and organizations in Calgary and neighbouring Nations to gather input for the design and development of the Gathering Place;
2. Working alongside the City of Calgary to secure a long-term below-market lease for land at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers - a location culturally significant to Indigenous Peoples in Treaty 7 territory since time immemorial; and
3. Gathering expertise, including Canada's preeminent Indigenous architecture firm [Tawaw](#) and other consultants to develop designs and an operating business plan for the facility that will be operational by 2027.

Our Relationship

The IGPSC is eager to initiate and grow meaningful relationships in the community, including with organizations and individuals that decide to donate gifts of time, skills and funding.

We commit to seeking out funders who are similarly driven by relationships and reciprocity and are as passionate as we are about vision for an Indigenous Gathering Place. We will work with our funders on all components of building these relationships, including:

- Timely and transparent communication;
- Opportunities for you and your community to join us and participate; and
- Opportunities for us to learn from each other as we advance this reconciliation initiative.



Pre-Construction Costs 2023-2025

What are the costs associated with a project of this magnitude? The following activities will bring this project to "shovel-ready" and are being used to seek federal and provincial grant funding. That said, these grants require various matching schemes, generally at 50%.

Your financial support will be applied to these matching grants and will allow your organization to join us at an early stage as we walk together on this path to realizing a long-held dream of an Indigenous Gathering Place in Calgary.

2023/2024 Costs	
Business Case Development & Capital Cost Estimates	\$85,000
Consultants	\$1,777,000
Environmental (Phase I & II, BIA, Federal ERP), Archeological, and Geotechnical Study (City of Calgary costs)	\$0
Fees (Land use and development permit, legal fees)	\$105,000
Consultation (federally required under Duty to Consult; costs for hosting only)	\$10,000
Contingency	\$58,000
Total 2023-24	\$2,035,000

Contact

Connect with us to support building an Indigenous Gathering Place in Calgary:

Sheryl-Ann Carscadden

General Manager

igpcalgary@gmail.com

403.477.1569

Alison Pidskalny

Fundraising Lead

alison@alisonpidskalny.com

403.671.3838



indigenousgatheringplace.com



**Indigenous
Gathering
Place**