

**PROPOSED COMMUNITY NAME AND STREET NAMES  
RESIDUAL SUB-AREA 01E AND RESIDUAL SUB-AREA 06B  
(WARD 1 AND 6)  
TRANS CANADA HIGHWAY & SARCEE TRAIL SW**

**MAP 27W & 28W**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is for a proposed community name and street names for a development within a portion of the lands commonly known as Canada Olympic Park. The lands are located south of the Trans Canada Highway and west of Sarcee Trail SW.

The community and street names were chosen in consultation with the Blackfoot Elders. A naming ceremony was conducted at the bottom of Paskapoo Slopes on 2015 September 21. The names pay tribute to the Blackfoot history associated with the land.

The proposed community name is Medicine Hill, which is translated from the name Aiss ka pooma.

The proposed street names, with their associated meanings are: Natooyii (Sacred), Saatohtsi (West), Na'a (Mother Earth) and Piita (Eagle).

**ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION**

2016 January 14

That Calgary Planning Commission recommends **APPROVAL** of the proposed community name and street names.

**RECOMMENDATION(S) OF THE CALGARY PLANNING COMMISSION**

That Council:

1. **ADOPT**, by Resolution, the proposed community name of Aiss ka pooma.
2. **ADOPT**, by Resolution, the proposed street names: Natooyii, Saatohtsi, Na'a and Piita in accordance with the Administration's recommendation.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

The proposed community name, Medicine Hill, was chosen by the developer after consulting with the Blackfoot Elders, who advised that the lands are a place of transition from the mountains to the foothills, where all natural resources flow. It provides a natural filtering system that helps heal the city. The name will be used to identify the community and will not be used as a street name.

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The proposed street names reflect the important history of the subject lands: Natooyii, Saatoohsi, Na'a and Piita, which translate as Sacred, West, Mother Earth and Eagle respectively. Please refer to APPENDIX I for further information, provided on behalf of the Blackfoot Elders.

The proposed community and street names conform to the Municipal Naming Policy as they reflect the historical significance of the land and are names that are unique within Calgary. In addition to that, the Canada Olympic Park and Adjacent Lands Area Structure Plan, under Section 2.2 Urban Identity, includes the following information and policy direction:

- The entire escarpment was used as a summer camp and hunting ground by the Blackfoot people for thousands of years.
- The cultural history of the site should be recognized and highlighted through the design of urban elements such as parks, public art and signs as well as through the naming of streets.

The community and street names have been chosen for the proposed development south of the Trans Canada Highway and west of Sarcee Trail SW. The associated outline plan (LOC2014-0080) was approved by the Calgary Planning Commission on 2015 June 14 and City Council approved the land use on 2015 July 27.

The names comply with the Municipal Naming Policy, in that they reflect the history and the geographical features of the area. However, the revised names also present two items of concern:

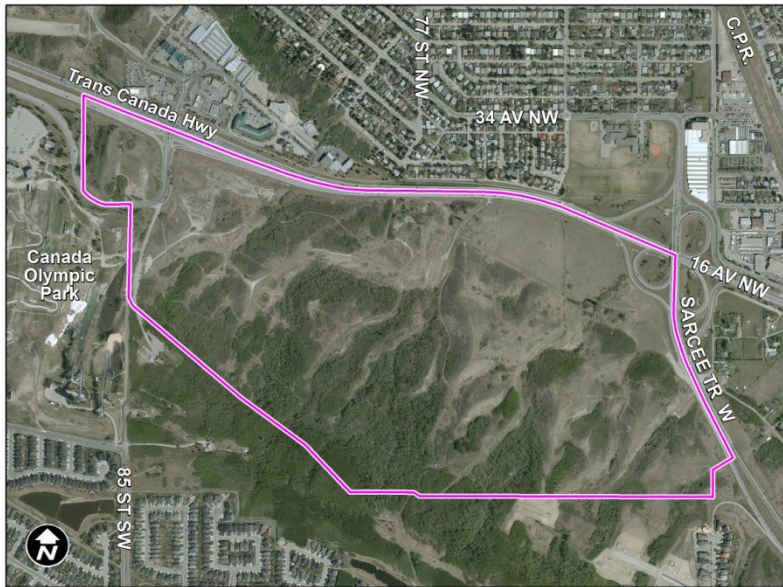
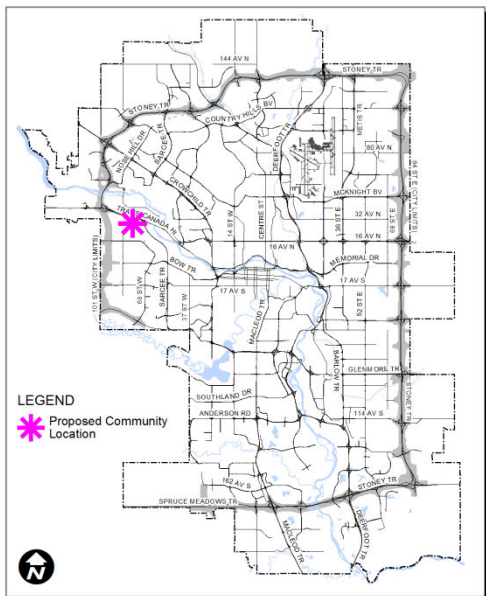
1. Apostrophes are not generally permitted (Na'a); and
2. Names should be easily pronounced and spelled.

Based on the history of the site, Administrations recommendation is to recommend approval of the proposed community name and street names.

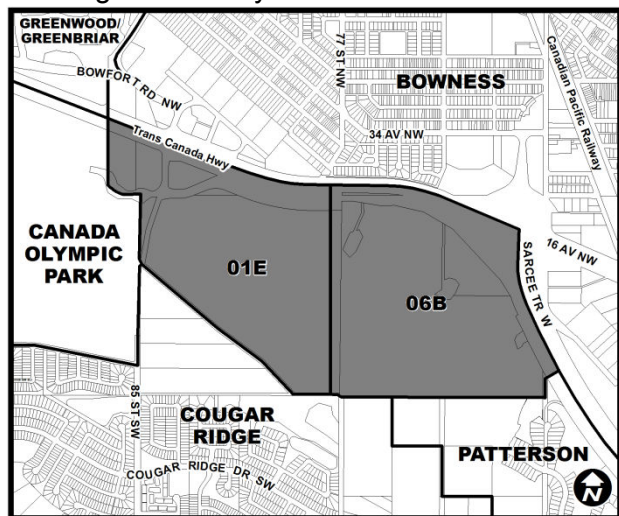
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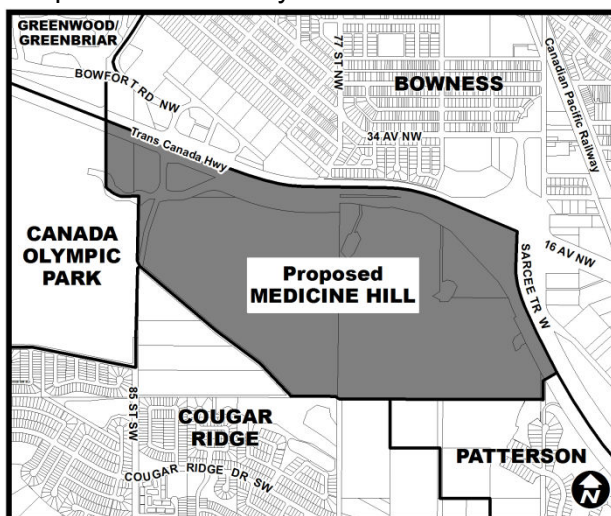
**LOCATION MAPS**



**Existing Community District Names**



**Proposed Community Name**



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**ADMINISTRATIONS RECOMMENDATION TO CALGARY PLANNING COMMISSION**

1. Recommend that Council **ADOPT**, by Resolution, the proposed community name of Medicine Hill; and
2. Recommend that Council **ADOPT**, by Resolution, the proposed street names: Natooyii, Saatoohsi, Na'a and Piita.

**Moved by: J. Gondek**

**Carried: 7 - 2**

Opposed: S. Keating and M. Tita

**2016 January 14**

**MOTION:**

The Calgary Planning Commission accepted correspondence from:

- Save The Slopes dated 2016 January 12;

as distributed, and directs it to be included in the report in APPENDIX III.

**Moved by: M. Tita**

**Carried: 7 – 2**

Opposed: G. Morrow and R. Wright

**MOTION:**

The Calgary Planning Commission **FILED** Administration's recommendation of **APPROVAL** of the proposed community name Medicine Hill and recommends that Council:

1. **ADOPT**, by Resolution, the proposed community name of Aiss ka pooma.

**Moved by: J. Gondek**

**Carried: 7 - 2**

Opposed: S. Keating and M. Tita

Reasons for amended Adoption recommendation from Ms. Gondek:

- I would prefer the community maintain the Blackfoot name of Aiss ka pooma. It keeps with the naming of the streets with Blackfoot names. If our goal is to demonstrate respect for cultural process-based naming, then it stands to reason we should have a Blackfoot name (not the English translation).

Reasons for amended Adoption recommendation from Mr. Friesen:

- I supported this amendment as a way to further reinforce the value of legitimate names for Calgary features and the important place of first

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- nations in our community but ideally the group of elders that participated in the process should be consulted on this decision.
- I supported this naming as an excellent example of naming process done right. There are in fact many names available that would fit the policy if developers would take the trouble to do some research.

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**Existing Community District  
Names:**

Residual Sub-Area 01E and  
Residual Sub-Area 06B

**Proposed Community Name:**

Medicine Hill

**Proposed Street Names:**

Natooyii  
Saatohtsi  
Na'a  
Piita

**Applicant:**

Brown & Associates Planning Group

**Developer:**

Trinity Development Group Inc

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**APPENDIX I**

**Trinity Development  
Aiss ka pooma (Medicine Hill)**

**Background**

Blackfoot Elders were asked to participate in the City of Calgary's stakeholder engagement as part of the review process for the Trinity Development Slopes application. Since January 2013, the Elders provided historical content related to their Blackfoot World View in connection to the ancestral and sacred land of their ancestors. In the spirit of their ancestors, the Blackfoot Elders visited the site on many occasions, made traditional offerings to mother earth and conducted several ceremonies at the site based on renewal of natural laws in balance with the environment. They asked that Blackfoot oral history be considered throughout this process because the Blackfoot language is not written. Their transmission of traditional knowledge is passed down orally through the generations. Very early on in the process, they recognized that Paskapoo is an English version of a Blackfoot word that was mispronounced in translation similar to so many other place names in their traditional territory. They requested to rectify this concern sometime throughout the course of engagement.

**City of Calgary Council Approval**

In July 2015, Blackfoot Elders provided testimony regarding their World View on the in relation to the First Nations perspective during public hearings at the Council meeting in July. Council approved the Trinity Development application and made reference that the development is connected to the upper Paskapoo Slopes, and that development is respectful of the significance of Blackfoot culture and history.

**The Naming Ceremony**

At the request of Trinity Development, the Elders were asked to provide Blackfoot names for the new development. On September 21, 2015, Elders Andy Blackwater and Bruce Wolf Child conducted a Blackfoot naming ceremony for the new development at the bottom of Paskapoo Slopes.

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## **The Name**

The name - Aiss ka pooma (Medicine Hill) comes from “place.” The gifts provided by mother earth are part of the ecology to create the ideal circumstances for renewal and is part of the ecological cycle of existence. In the Blackfoot perspective, Creator put us in this place to maintain a way of natural order to survive in this environment. The environment provided everything we needed to sustain ourselves. At this place exists four elements – water, air, wind and rock.

Aiss ka pooma translated in the Blackfoot language means providing guidance to a gathering place that you always return to for renewal. It is a place of transition from the mountains to the foothills where all natural resources flow from; clean air, water, rain, snow and animals. It provides a natural filtering system to Calgary (in reference to pollution). Within this context, it provides a coherent consciousness to the environment. It is a gateway to the valley that welcomes resources from the west, in particular, the sacred healing springs. This is a place of health and well-being.

## **Learning from Place**

In the Elders perspective, the protection of the environment is primary. They thought a pledge or covenant of expectations of Aiss ka pooma (Medicine Hill) should be offered to future generations of residents.

- Provide a holistic description of the names, where they come from and how they preserve health and well-being as they relate to Aiss ka pooma.
- They could provide content in a CD to tell the oral history of the place or provide plaques in reference to the cultural footprint left behind by their Blackfoot ancestors.
- Provide reference to the buffalo as the historical economic system for the Blackfoot people prior to the arrival of newcomers.
- Provide a sacred place to continue to make offerings to Creator.



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**APPENDIX II**

**APPLICANT'S SUBMISSION**

Please accept this letter as the formal application submitted by Trinity Development Group Inc. for the approval of community and road name options. With the assistance of Lorna Crowshoe, of Research and Planning - Community and Neighbourhood Services, Trinity has engaged Blackfoot Elders during various stages of the planning process and wish to acknowledge their important input and wisdom through the incorporation of Blackfoot names into various aspects of the project. As such, we present the following Blackfoot names suggested by the Elders and proposed for this project complete with the English translation:

**Natooyii** = Sacred

**Saatohtsi** = West

**Na'a** = Mother Earth

**Piita** = Eagle

**Medicine/Medicine Hill** – According to the Blackfoot Elders, the lands are a place of transition from the mountains to the foothills, down the Bow valley where all natural resources flow, from clean air, water, rain, snow and animals. It provides a natural filtering system that helps heal the City.

As recommended by the elders, all of these names pay tribute to the important Blackfoot history associated with the land. For thousands of years Blackfoot people frequented the lands as it was an important buffalo hunting and processing area that provided sustenance to their people. The use of Blackfoot names is also in compliance with the Canada Olympic Park & Adjacent Lands Area Structure Plan urban identity provision that recommends the cultural history of the site should be recognized through such means as the naming of streets (Section 2.2).

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APPENDIX III



Save The Slopes

January 12, 2016

Re: SN2015-0009 Proposed Community Name and Street Names for East Paskapoo | Submission from SaveTheSlopes

To Members of the Calgary Planning Commission:

I am a member of SaveTheSlopes, which is, as you are likely aware, a group of Calgarians that formed in late fall 2014 to raise awareness of the Trinity Hills development application for the East Paskapoo Slopes.

The administration report for the proposed community name (Medicine Hill) and street names (Natooyii, Saatoohsi, Na'a, Piita) for the new community on East Paskapoo Slopes at Trans Canada Highway and Sarcee Trail SW is being presented at the meeting of the Calgary Planning Commission to be held this Thursday, January 14, 2016.

I would like to submit, on behalf of SaveTheSlopes, the following arguments for requesting that consideration be given to naming the new community in the Blackfoot language, as are the proposed street names. The proposed name for the community is *Medicine Hill*. SaveTheSlopes proposes that the community be named *Aiss ka pooma*, the Blackfoot translation.

SaveTheSlopes applauds the developer and the City of Calgary administration for consulting with the Blackfoot elders to discover the long and significant Indigenous history of what Calgarians call the "Paskapoo Slopes". The names recommended by the Blackfoot are meaningful and will help to portray the significance of the area. However, we feel that it is inconsistent to use the English name of "Medicine Hill" for the community name, and the Blackfoot names for the community streets.

The Blackfoot name of *Aiss ka pooma* would comply with the Municipal Naming Policy and we feel it better reflects the history and geographical features of the area and is also easy to pronounce. For Calgary to completely honour the Blackfoot heritage of this site, it would seem most fitting to use the Blackfoot name of *Aiss ka pooma*, rather than the proposed *Medicine Hill* English translation. How can Calgary say they are truly honouring the Blackfoot culture when they only go half the distance? Perhaps on the community sign the name Medicine Hill and a description could be written below the name *Aiss ka pooma*.

Many Canadian and Albertan community, city and regional names are derived directly from respective Aboriginal words. However, Calgary appears to have only one community name based on an Aboriginal name: Shaganappi is of Cree origin. Edmonton has several: Kameyosek, Kaskitayo, Keheewin, Meyonohk, and Tipaskan just to name a few. In addition, the town of Amisk, Alberta, comes from the Cree word for beaver, and the name Canada itself is of Aboriginal origin. Therefore, there exists significant precedence in naming Albertan and Canadian communities, Cities, and regions after Indigenous names. SaveTheSlopes feels that it behooves the City of Calgary to more respectfully honour the Indigenous history of Paskapoo Slopes, Calgary, Alberta and Canada, by giving the new community its proper Blackfoot name of *Aiss ka pooma*.

SaveTheSlopes respectfully requests that this email be included in the report of the Calgary Planning Commission that will be presented to Calgary City Council.

Your attention to, and consideration of, our submission is greatly appreciated. Feel free to contact me by email or phone.

Regards,

Linda Nessel  
SaveTheSlopes  
403-880-4918