



## Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee

### MANDATE

The primary function of the Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (CAUAC) is to provide Council with professional and strategic advice on matters that affect Aboriginal Calgarians and offer ongoing guidance in relation to the implementation of strategies that advance Aboriginal interests in ways that benefit all Calgarians. ([link](#))

### COMPOSITION

Minimum of 12 and maximum of 14 Representatives of the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Communities

### ANNUAL UPDATE & KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Advocacy** - CAUAC is committed to its mandate to advocate on matters that affect Indigenous Calgarians and advance Indigenous interests. CAUAC has laid the foundation for advocacy by building a positive and collaborative relationship with the Calgary Indigenous Relations Office (IRO), strengthening its relationships with the Indigenous community, and learning about the matters that affect them and through participation in Indigenous community events such as Indigenous Awareness Week and Orange Shirt Day events and commemoration of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. When Indigenous agencies and people contact the committee about issues of importance, CAUAC works with the IRO to follow-up. Examples include encouraging name changes on structures from colonial to Indigenous names and Indigenous place-making in city parks.

CAUAC continues to promote Indigenous worldviews, principles, and practices, as well as diversity and inclusion, through participation in internal and external committees.

**White Goose Flying** – CAUAC continues to promote the implementation of the Calls to Action within the Corporation and key partner organizations. With the support of the IRO, CAUAC initiated engagement with Calgary Economic Development about its implementation of Truth and Reconciliation – CED responded with correspondence outlining its implementation of Calls to Action and expressed interest in working with the committee to further advance truth and reconciliation.

CAUAC also supported the name change of the Langevin School through communication with the Calgary Board of Education. The Board responded, and there are commitments for the two committees to continue communicating and advancing Truth and Reconciliation.

**Indian Residential School Memorial Project** – CAUAC is actively participating in the establishment of the Indian Residential School Memorial in the city through participation in the IRS Memorial Committee established by the IRO. Work that CAUAC has contributed includes the



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establishment of an Elders Advisory, development of a project charter and initial budget, collaboration with internal stakeholders and scoping of potential sites in the city.

**Indigenous Gathering Place** – In its advancement of Indigenous interests, CAUAC has been a strong advocate for the Indigenous Gathering Place (IGP). CAUAC contributed the IGP Society's preparation of IGP Notice of Motion council debate by submitting a letter of support and standing with IGP representatives at the February 2022 Council meeting. CAUAC also regularly participates in City of Calgary – IGPS meetings and events.

**CAUAC Awards** - The Annual Chief David Crowchild Award and the CAUAC Youth Award involve promotion, nomination, adjudication, and ceremonial event planning. 2021 was the first time the awards took place virtually because the pandemic. Although the execution of the virtual ceremony was challenging, it was also successful, and the live stream was viewed by a significant number of staff from across the Corporation.

### CHALLENGES

Financial resources – CAUAC has a very small budget which makes it challenging to fully meet the requirements associated with its purpose.

Corporate support for work planning – CAUAC wanted to develop a workplan to ensure that the goals and strategies in its 10-year Strategic Plan have been fully implemented. CAUAC sought the support of a City business planner to assist with this work but one was unavailable. CAUAC's minuscule budget does not allow it to retain an external consultant to assist with work planning.

### WORKPLAN FOR THE NEXT YEAR

Priorities	Actions
Indigenous Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indigenous Policy is up for review in the current COC policy review cycle. CAUAC will collaborate with the IRO and stakeholders to review the policy and make recommended actions.</li> </ul>
CAUAC Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CAUAC TOR is scheduled for review in the current BCC committee TOR review cycle. CAUAC, with the assistance of the IRO, will review and amend its TOR as necessary</li> </ul>
CAUAC 10-Year Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current plan expires in 2023. CAUAC will develop a new strategic plan, starting in 2022</li> </ul>
Indigenous Governance Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in the co-creation of an Indigenous governance model for The City, work currently being led by the IRO.</li> </ul>



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White Goose Flying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with the IRO in the assessment of implementation of calls to action</li> <li>• Participate in the development of a ReconciliACTION Plan that will help The City fully implement calls to action in the WGF Report.</li> </ul>
CAUAC Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote awards, adjudicate nominations</li> <li>• Plan &amp; execute awards ceremony</li> </ul>

### OPERATIONS

- Meetings held since May 2021:
  - 10 CAUAC Meetings
  - 10 Agenda Setting Meetings
  - 3 Terms of Reference Review Meetings
  - 3 Awards Planning Meetings
  - Participation in numerous corporate and community committees.
- Members continue to participate remotely.
- CAUAC reports to the Indigenous community annually. All CAUAC meeting agendas and minutes are accessible to the public upon request.
- The online nature caused by the pandemic has made it more challenging for the public to attend Committee meetings.
- Hybrid meetings in the future will be a good option and allow maximum participation. The technical challenge may be in making sure that all participants, virtual and in person, are able to easily hear and participate in the entire discussion.

### ATTACHMENTS

- CAUAC Letter of support, Indigenous Gathering Place Notice of Motion
- Calgary Economic Development Response, Economic Reconciliation
- CAUAC Letter to Calgary Board of Education, Langevin School Name Change



February 11, 2022

City of Calgary Council  
800 Macleod Trail, S.E.  
Calgary, AB

Dear Mayor Gondek and Councillors,

The City of Calgary's Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (CAUAC) advises Mayor and Council on matters of interest and importance to Calgary's urban Aboriginal population. CAUAC was instrumental in guiding the development of the White Goose Flying Report that was commissioned by the City. This Report identified the need for a healing place within the City as one way to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

CAUAC fully supports the work and goal of the Indigenous Gathering Place (IGP) and recommends that Mayor and Council direct Administration to work with the IGP Society to identify a suitable parcel of land in and around the confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers for the development of the IGP. On March 24, 2021, CAUAC wrote to Mayor and Council and communicated our support for the IGP. Today, we would like to reaffirm this support with the new Mayor and Council.

It is time that the City put the 'action' in Reconciliation by committing to genuinely working with the IGP Society to lay the foundation for a healing place for Calgary's urban Aboriginal population, the Blackfoot (Kainai, Piikani, and Siksika), the Tsuut'ina Nation, the Stoney Nakoda and the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3, and all Calgarians. CAUAC commits to continue to work and further engage, in collaboration with the City's Indigenous Relations Office, the IGP Society, Treaty 7 Nations and Métis Region 3 as well as other local Indigenous organizations to support an inclusive process that will lead to the success of the IGP.

CAUAC, in our advisory role to Mayor and Council, and representing the interests of Calgary's urban Aboriginal population recommends that you support the Notice of Motion EC2022-0150 on February 15. Your support is one of the most important ways to support ReconciliAction.

Sincerely,

Crist Adams  
Chair, CAUAC

Wayne Couchene  
Vice Chair, CAUAC

December 16, 2021

Terry Poucette, PhD  
Team Lead, Indigenous Relations Office  
Calgary Neighbourhoods, City of Calgary

Dear Terry,

Thank you for your inquiry into Calgary Economic Development's efforts to advance economic reconciliation with Indigenous People. Calgary Economic Development participated in the update to Enough for All and has embedded prosperity for all into Calgary in the New Economy, the Economic Strategy for Calgary.

Call to action #92 recommends that:

- i. Commit to meaningful consultation, building respectful relationships, and obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects.
- ii. Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that Aboriginal communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.

Over the course of the past several years we have been meeting on a semi-regular basis with the Chief of Tsuu T'ina Nation and the Taza Development Corporation. In the past year, we have been significantly increasing our efforts, both internally and externally, to meet the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action and the Enough for All goal of all Aboriginal People are equal participants in Calgary's prosperous future.

Internally, Calgary Economic Development is engaging in learning and understanding our role in reconciliation. Activities undertaken include:

- Recognizing the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation as a Statutory Holiday and provided all employees with a list of educational opportunities and activities to learn more about reconciliation. This was followed up with employees sharing their learnings with each other on Monday, October 4th.
- Conducting an All-Staff Fireside chat on Economic Development and the Indigenous Economy with Alicia Dubois, then CEO of Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation, and Annie Korver with Rise Consulting.
- Engaging Rise Consulting, a CCAB approved consultant, to work with Calgary Economic Development on a reconciliation path. The Discovery Phase and Listening Circles are now complete, and we are currently in the phase of digesting the summary report. The next phase will involve creating a strategy and supporting action plan.
- Participating in Workforce Forward on November 30th, to learn more about Indigenous inclusion training, employment strategies and employment best practices.

- Incorporating equity, diversity and inclusion in our 2022 Business Plan with the objective: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) is understood and embraced by everyone. We will embed EDI into our policies, programming and how we work. To achieve this objective, we created an employee led EDI Committee with related terms of reference.

Externally, we have initiated consultation with the Indigenous community to frame our actions on economic reconciliation in the context of Calgary in the New Economy. We understand that reconciliation is about engagement and the goals of Indigenous People. We are on a journey to learn and explore our collective goals and opportunities and how the Treaty 7 Nations and Metis Nation of Alberta Region 3 wish to work with Calgary Economic Development.

Through 2021, we have been reaching out to individuals in our local First Nations and Metis communities to start building meaningful relationships in hopes of better understanding how we as Calgary Economic Development can support their diverse communities to thrive and prosper including:

- Listening and learning from elders, Indigenous Tourism Alberta, two Treaty 7 artists, and JP Gladu, one of Canada's most renowned Indigenous business advocates (and on the Board of Suncor). We entered these conversations with the question, How can we empower and support you and what do you need from us?
- Opening a relationship with the Connect Partnership Group, organizers of Forward Summit and Workforce Forward (Indigenous business events), to strategically partner and create economic prosperity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples and businesses.
- As part of our review of Calgary in the New Economy, we are reaching out to organizations and communities such as Indigenous Tourism Alberta, Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth, and Canada Bridges.

As part of our future thinking on economic reconciliation, we look forward to working with the Treaty 7 First Nations, Metis Nation of Alberta Region 3, The City of Calgary, the Calgary Chamber, and other partners to:

- Build internal capacity and capabilities to make CED a more inclusive workplace and embed this thinking into our core business.
- Build long-lasting relationships directly with each Nation.
- Build programs and initiatives to support Indigenous businesses, artists, and entrepreneurs.

Calgary Economic Development has an important role to play in economic reconciliation. The efforts will be led by engagement with our Indigenous community and achieved through collaboration and support from all of the partners engaged in Calgary in the New Economy.

We welcome continued conversations with The City of Calgary in striving towards economic reconciliation and prosperity for all.

Kind regards,



Joe Lougheed  
Board Chair  
Calgary Economic Development



Brad Parry  
Interim President & CEO  
Calgary Economic Development



June 11, 2021

Calgary Board of Education School  
1221 8 Street, S.W.  
Calgary, AB  
T2R 0L4

Dear Trustees,

The Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (CAUAC) acknowledges your recent renaming of Langevin School. It is unfortunate that despite continued appeals from Langevin School students and the Indigenous community, that the school board did not act until the tragic discovery of the 215 innocent Indigenous children at the Kamloops Indian Residential School and prompting by the City of Calgary Mayor.

The tragedy of the 215 Indigenous children found at the Kamloops Indian Residential School serves as a stark reminder of Canada's painful colonial history and has led to a national reckoning of the need for sincere reconciliation with Indigenous people. While the school's namesake, Hector-Louis Langevin, was a father of confederation and considered a hero by many Canadians, he also played a key role in initiating Indian residential schools. Mr. Langevin is therefore accountable for the deaths of thousands of Indigenous children at these horrid institutions of assimilation, including the 215 innocent little souls found at Kamloops Indian Residential School.

Renaming Langevin School is the right decision. However, retitling alone will not move the needle on reconciliation with Indigenous people. CAUAC sincerely hopes that the name change is the first step to reconciliation and that you will seriously consider educating your students about Canada's true colonial history. For only when Canadians become educated will colonial racist attitudes against Indigenous people shift and lay the foundation for genuine and lasting reconciliation. In the words of Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner, the Honorable Murray Sinclair, "Education is the key to reconciliation...education got us into this mess, and education will get us out of the mess."

Sincerely,

Justin Jimmy,  
Chair, CAUAC

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eileen Clearsky".

Eileen Clearsky,  
Vice Chair, CAUAC