



Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee Report

MANDATE

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

12 to 14 Public Members

ANNUAL UPDATE & KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Advocacy – The Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (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, practices, diversity, and inclusion through participation in internal and external committees.

White Goose Flying – CAUAC continues to promote the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action as identified within the White Goose Flying Report, within the corporation and key partner organizations.

ReconciliACTION – In spring 2022, the Indigenous Relations Office and the Engage team organized three working sessions with City of Calgary business units and members of CAUAC to work through the White Goose Flying Calls to Action and identify gaps/barriers that prevent business units from completing the recommendations.

CAUAC plans to follow up with Engage on how the committee can continue to be involved in supporting the City of Calgary business units to identify and action specific responsibilities related to the White Goose Flying Calls to Action.

Indian Residential School Memorial Project – Throughout last year, CAUAC actively participated in establishing the local Indian Residential School Memorial and dedicated one of its board members to sit on the Indian Residential School Memorial Committee, which the IRO established.

CAUAC's contributions included establishing an Elders Advisory, developing a project charter and initial budget, collaborating with internal stakeholders and scoping potential sites around the City.



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Indigenous Gathering Place Society (IGPS) – CAUAC regularly participated in the City of Calgary – IGPS meetings and events. As of May 2023, there continues to be a dedicated CAUAC liaison for the IGPS.

CAUAC Awards - The Annual Chief David Crowchild Award and the CAUAC Youth Award commenced last year, and the committee was responsible for promoting the awards across public platforms and community networks, adjudicating the nominees, and planning/executing the ceremonial event.

2022 was the first time the awards were live-streamed and will remain available for the public to view online during the 2023 awards ceremony.

City Hall Smudge Room – Last November, CAUAC raised the issue of a lack of a place to smudge within the Municipal Complex. With support from Councillor Spencer, Facility Management, and the IRO, our committee looks forward to sharing the Wicispa Oyade room with Elders and City Staff in a culturally inclusive environment.

This room is retrofitted with negative flow HVAC systems to allow people to smudge without requiring advance notice to turn off the fire alarms and will feature Indigenous-designed art and furniture. Its estimated completion date is Summer 2023.

Councillor behaviour – CAUAC was grateful to be consulted by the Mayor's Office upon revelations of inappropriate past microaggressions. Members of the committee also attended the first reconciliation session, guided by Elder Reg Crowshoe¹.

In addition, CAUAC was invited by the Anti-Racism Committee to participate in a new subcommittee² tasked to create additional parameters for Cllr. actions. Unfortunately, the ad hoc subcommittee could not advance with collective recommendations due to a lack of volunteer capacity.

However, CAUAC has a vested interest in facilitating and moving recommendations forward, especially considering that microaggressions towards Indigenous peoples require an increased component of cultural awareness.

Inter-committee event: CAUAC held a key role in planning the November 2022 Inter-committee event hosted by the Social Wellbeing Committee. The first-time event, which was well attended by all committees, city staffers and members of Council, stimulated several in-depth conversations on how the committees could work more collaboratively in the future. Following the event, CAUAC increased its visibility among other committees and continues to look for opportunities to connect with the wider BCC.

¹ While the following planned sessions did not commence as planned, CAUAC wishes to express its desire for and openness to seek future relationship building opportunities with Cllr. McLean.

² It was unclear how the Cllr. Behaviour subcommittee's authority's or influence differed from or complemented the City's official Integrity & Ethics Office.



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Social media and communications strategy: In late 2022, the committee identified communication opportunities to raise awareness of its position as a resource for Indigenous Calgarians and advisory board to Council. CAUAC created a subcommittee tasked to develop a communications strategy to be implemented starting in Q2 2023. The communications plan consists of a fulsome content plan that will feature committee achievements, amplify IRO messaging, provide resources to Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, and outline an updated visual brand identity.

Discussion/Opportunities

At regular meetings, CAUAC advised City Administration and members of the public on the following:

- Colonial statues such as the Sir Winston Churchill statue planned for McDougall Centre
- Indigenous inclusion in Calgary Heritage sites of significance
- Red Dress Memorial and other art installation opportunities
- Calgary Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Plan for Indigenous Engagement
- Urban Reserve Framework

CHALLENGES

There needs to be more visibility of CAUAC among the general public and the City Council.

CAUAC sees future opportunities to enhance its prominence among City of Calgary business units and Councillors over the next year.³

WORKPLAN FOR THE NEXT YEAR

Priorities	Actions
Indigenous Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 recommend actions.
CAUAC Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAUAC's 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.
CAUAC 10-Year Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAUAC's 10-year strategic plan is set to expire in 2024. Due to lacking City Engage planner capacity, CAUAC struck a subcommittee to create a 2024-2034 strategic work plan.
Indigenous Governance Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in co-creating an Indigenous governance model for the City, work currently being led by the IRO.

³ It is critical to note that CAUAC is immensely grateful for the dedicated support it receives from the IRO, specifically Dr. Terry Poucette and Devin Siebold.



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

OPERATIONS

Members of CAUAC attended the following:

- 10 CAUAC meetings in 2022 – one meeting per month, with a break in July and August
- Three Terms of Reference subcommittee meetings
- Four Strategic Planning subcommittee meetings
- Eight Orange Shirt Day planning committee meetings
- Social Wellbeing Advisory committee meetings
- Indigenous Gathering Place Society meetings
- Three CAUAC Awards planning subcommittee
- Three Inter-Committee event planning subcommittee meetings + event
- Elders Healing Circle with Councillor McLean
- Mentorship Meetings – CAUAC has held informal meetings matching new members with continuing members to enhance the networking function of CAUAC and welcome new members.
- New member orientation – New members participated in four online orientation sessions with Dr. Terry Poucette to learn the background of CAUAC, the IRO and the City's commitment to furthering the qualities of life for Indigenous people.
- Mayor's Naming Ceremony – Several committee members attended the Mayor's traditional Blackfoot Naming Ceremony in April 2023.



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- CAUAC representatives attended the following **2023** community events:
 - MEIP walk on February 14



- MMIWG2S gathering on May 5



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- o All My Relations Healing Pow Wow on May 6



CAUAC reports to the Indigenous community annually through the annual Awards ceremony.

All CAUAC meeting agendas and minutes are accessible to the public upon request. CAUAC has been holding hybrid meetings since September 2022.