

Background and Previous Council Direction

Background

Since 2016, Housing Solutions has been working to identify how The City can better support the delivery of affordable housing for Indigenous people living in Calgary. From 2020 July – 2021 December, engagement with Elders and Knowledge Keepers, Indigenous-serving housing providers and service organizations, as well as Nation administrative leadership took place. In 2022 June the *What we heard: Community engagement and research report. Understanding the affordable housing needs of Indigenous Calgarians: By Indigenous people for Indigenous people* (CD2022-0760) was presented to City Council and was approved unanimously. A follow-up Recommendations Report was requested by Council no later than Q2 2023. This work is aligned through a variety of policies and initiatives including: *The Municipal Government Act, Social Wellbeing Policy, Welcoming Communities Policy, Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, Multicultural Communications & Engagement Strategy, Resilient Calgary Strategy, and White Goose Flying Report.*

Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

The *What we heard: Community engagement and research report. Understanding the affordable housing needs of Indigenous Calgarians: By Indigenous people for Indigenous people* (CD2022-0760) report identified the following key themes:

- **Natural Laws** are understood as the worldviews / a way of life that informed Indigenous communities prior to colonization. For example, Siim'ohksin and Wahkotowin are ways of understanding what home meant to Indigenous peoples prior to colonization; concepts of relationality to each other and the land.
- **Recognize the Land** is understood as the acquisition, building and creation of affordable housing in Calgary with access to land-based oral practice and the provision of supports for Indigenous people moving to Calgary. For example, projects may consider the creation of on-site outside spaces for ceremony or consideration of transportation of residents to other locations for land-based teachings.
- **Safe Spaces** is understood as the types of housing designs that create a sense of community specifically for seniors, youth, and single parents to come together as community and be free of trauma. For example, projects will consider how their project can create a sense of relationality between residents in their design.
- **Colonization and External Racism** recognizes how external racism and stereotyping can further harm Indigenous residents and applies this understanding in systems, design, and operation of housing projects. For example, projects will consider the need for smudging, ceremonial spaces, and other oral practice in their design.
- **Supports** are understood as built-in Indigenous programming within the housing structure. For example, Elders in residence, day-care or other healing programs could be considered.
- **Reconciliation** formally declares The City of Calgary and Affordable Housing priorities for advancing urban Indigenous Housing.

In 2023, business units were engaged and asked to consider alignment to one or more of the six themes listed above, as well as to the *White Goose Flying Calls to Action* to inform the basis of short-, medium- and long-term work across the Corporation; found in Attachment 2, CD2023-0239.

Previous Council Direction

DATE	REPORT NUMBER	DIRECTION/DESCRIPTION
2022 June 07	C2022-706	Affordable Housing for Urban Indigenous Calgarians The City of Calgary's Affordable Housing division with the support of the Indigenous Relations Office, conducted extensive voluntary engagement from June 2020 to December 2021, to better understand affordable housing challenges for urban Indigenous people living in Calgary and how to begin addressing these needs. Results of the engagement were presented to Council on 2022 June 7. Council approved the What we heard: Community engagement and research report C2022-0706 and directed Administration to, "engage relevant business units on the results of the What we heard report and; bring the Recommendations Report to Council for consideration and approval by Q2 2023".