



Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee

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.

COMPOSITION

12 to 14 Public Members

MEETINGS

CAUAC meetings are mostly hybrid, with the occasional meeting held in person for specific purposes (meeting new CAUAC members, Elders, members of the Indigenous Gathering Place Society, and members of the Crowchild family; a site visit to the Confluence).

Participation in CAUAC meetings is facilitated through requests for a meeting with CAUAC for specific topics by members of the public and of Administration.

Monthly Board Meetings and key topics/guest speakers:

- June 13, 2023 (In Person/Hybrid) – Transit Public Safety Strategy; BCC Remuneration Policy Research
- September 12, 2023 (Hybrid) – Housing strategy; CAUAC budget & strategic planning
- October 10, 2023 (Hybrid) – Parks Plan Indigenous Engagement
- November 14, 2023 (In Person/Hybrid) – Meet and Greet with new members
- December 12, 2023 (Online) – Cancelled
- January 9, 2024 (Online) – Ask Her YYC; UNESCO Chair in Future Governance
- February 13, 2024 (Online) – She Governs
- March 12, 2024 (In Person/Hybrid) – Indigenous Gathering Place Society
- April 9, 2024 (Hybrid) – City Building Plan Indigenous Engagement
- May 21, 2024 (Online) – Indigenous Procurement
- June 11, 2024 (Online)

CAUAC Strategic Plan Subcommittee

- February 10, 2023
- March 06, 2023
- April 17, 2023
- May 16, 2023
- November 22, 2023



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CAUAC Recruitment Subcommittee Meetings:

- September 9, 2023 – Interview Planning
- September 21, 22, 25, and 26 – Interviews
- September 28 – Interview Analysis and Recruitment Recommendations

CAUAC Awards Subcommittee Meetings

- March 12, 2024
- April 5, 2024
- April 23, 2024
- May 13, 2024
- May 28, 2024

Events (led or attended by CAUAC):

- June 14, 2023 – Annual Report to City Council Presentation
- June 22, 2023 – Chief David Crowchild Memorial and CAUAC Awards
- September 29, 2023 – Tipi Set-up
- September 30, 2023 – Orange Shirt Day
- November 9, 2023 – Inter-Committee Event
- November 13, 2023 – Métis Week Flag Raising, Opening Ceremonies, and Learning Session
- February 14, 2023 – Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Memorial March
- March 18 and 19, 2024 – Racial Justice Conference
- May 5 - Missing, Murdered, and Exploited Indigenous Peoples Red Dress/Shirt Day

WORK, IMPACT & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CAUAC has provided advice and feedback on many different policy engagement initiatives the City is working on, including Transit Safety, the Parks Plan, Governance, and Procurement. CAUAC was also consulted on the remuneration policy review, and continues to build a relationship with the Indigenous Gathering Place Society.

MANDATE ALIGNMENT

The advice provided to City business units and the relationships that CAUAC fosters for the City have helped ensure that Indigenous perspectives are included and honoured in the work of the City.

COLLABORATION & COMMUNICATION

CAUAC makes great efforts to collaborate and share information mutually with other city committees and projects. As detailed in the meetings list above, CAUAC members have heard presentations from



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Calgary Transit and Calgary Parks and Open Spaces, as well as the Calgary Housing Company. During these engagements members of CAUAC have had the opportunity to learn about how Indigenous values and worldview are taken into consideration when these departments make decisions that will shape their future. CAUAC members take pride in asking questions and offering advice and feedback on city department Indigenous engagement strategy.

For example, in February CAUAC members heard a presentation from members of She Governs and got a greater appreciation for how this valuable initiative provides opportunities for young leaders to experience the municipal political process by familiarizing them with the political institutions and those who serve locally. CAUAC was particularly interested in the involvement of young Indigenous women in the program and ways that She Governs can encourage Indigenous participation. CAUAC members offered contact information for their networks in the Calgary Indigenous community to help create new avenues for connecting with potential Indigenous women participants.

Another project of particular interest to CAUAC is the progress being made by the Indigenous Gathering Place Society. The IGPS presented to CAUAC earlier this year and members were very pleased to hear of the recent progress that is being made towards finalizing the design of and location for the Gathering Place at the Elbow/Bow River confluence. CAUAC and IGPS discussed how the grand opening of the Gathering Place can be celebrated by Calgary's Indigenous community and how the groups can collaborate to organize an event that captures the hearts and imaginations of the Indigenous Calgarians who will meet, place, and engage in ceremony at this unique location when it is completed.

WORKPLAN & PRIORITIES FOR 2024-2025

Our goal is to revisit the strategic priorities of CAUAC and the White Goose Flying Report to determine the roles and responsibilities of CAUAC members. The ten-year strategic plan expires in 2024. There is a need to set the strategic direction for 2025 - 2035 and align the mission of CAUAC with the City of Calgary.

CHALLENGES

The challenge of this BCC lies in understanding how these volunteer roles support elected officials and Indigenous residents living in Calgary as advocates. Additionally, there is a need to continue to align and grow the relationship between the IRO and CAUAC members' work to respond to emerging and current needs and trends.

External administrative support is needed to facilitate strategic planning sessions to help develop the next iteration of the White Goose Flying Report for 2025-2035. Currently, that work is being done by members with limited capacity.



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Other possible challenges/barriers:

- Participation in evening meetings can be challenging for members with caregiving responsibilities: this has been addressed, in part, by the virtual and/or hybrid nature of the meetings.
- Adoption of the remuneration policy to include accessibility supports and dependent care may help to remove barriers for consistent participation.

MEMBER PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Attendance at regular board meetings is tracked. There is no mechanism to acknowledge members who take on additional responsibilities.

BCC COMMENTS

There is a need to strengthen the relationships between CAUAC and elected officials to ensure that CAUAC members' unique expertise and connections to Indigenous communities are utilized.

ATTACHMENTS

none