

People, Innovation & Collaboration Services Report to
Public Hearing Meeting of Council
2024 September 23

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
C2024-1025

Permanent Indian Residential School Memorial Project Update

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the Indian Residential School Memorial (IRSM) project.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

On 2023 June 6, Council received C2023-0595, *Indian Residential School Permanent Memorial Project Update (Verbal)*. Council was informed of the memorial project's progress with respect to the IRSM What we heard report, dated January 2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council direct Administration to bring an update to Council with the preferred design concept and future funding request for consideration at the budget adjustment process in 2025 November to support the delivery of the permanent Indian Residential School Memorial project.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

General Manager Chris Arthurs concurs with this report.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Indian Residential School system, its abuses and atrocities, are central to any meaningful Truth and Reconciliation commitment, by all levels of Canadian government. Commemorating that time in Canadian and Calgary's history, and its ongoing impacts, is critical to advancing all of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

The City of Calgary identified Call to Action #82 in the *White Goose Flying* report to establish a monument, including commissions and art installations throughout the city pertaining to Indian residential school and other types of cultural commemoration. Given this guidance, The City seeks to establish a permanent memorial which will commemorate all Indian Residential School survivors, day school survivors, lost children, and intergenerational trauma survivors. The intention in our work to advance this Call to Action is to provide a safe place for people to come to pay respects and to remember these dark times in Canada and create a reconciliatory environment.

The Indian Residential School Memorial (IRSM) project is currently both on time and on budget. The project is moving into a design competition phase. Once the project team has a design concept, the project team will move into the regulatory phase with the province. Once the project is passed the regulatory phase, the project will move into the construction phase.

Below are eight key highlights/components of the project. Indigenous Leadership: The Indian Residential School Memorial project is Indigenous led from start to finish, ensuring meaningful participation from the Indigenous community.

- Public Engagement: Phase 1 of the project, involving siting and design engagement, concluded in December 2022, with findings reported to Council in June 2023.
- Design Competition, total time: September 2024 to early Q2 2025

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- A Royal Architectural Institute of Canada endorsed design competition will be held; the project team will be shortlisting to five Indigenous-led design teams to submit their concepts.
 - Each team will receive an honorarium for their participation.
- Selection Process: The Request For Pre-Qualifications (RFPQ) went live on 2024 September 16, with five shortlisted teams to be announced by the end of October 2024.
 - RFPQ is open to applicants on SAP Arriba
 - The five shortlisted teams will be invited to submit their design proposals via a Request For Proposals (RFP) starting in November 2024.
- Community Exhibition: In early 2025, the design concepts will be exhibited to the Indigenous community, and the results will be decided by a jury and made public in March 2025.
- Regulatory Phase:
 - The project will undergo a Historical Resource Impact Assessment (HRIA) taking at least 10 months, with potential mitigations impacting design and timelines. If there are no mitigations, the regulatory phase is expected to complete by October 2025.
 - If a Duty To Consult is triggered, it will be triggered during the HRIA process.
- Construction Phase: Following the regulatory phase, the project will move into construction, coordinated by the Indigenous Relations Office and Infrastructure Services staff.
- The IRSM project team has formally created a partnership with The Confluence Historic Site and Parkland (The Confluence). The partnership has given the IRSM project access to just under 10,000 square meters of land for the Indian Residential School Memorial.

DISCUSSION

A letter of intent (Attachment 2) was signed with The Confluence (formerly Fort Calgary) to develop and construct an Indian Residential School Memorial in September 2023. This partnership between The City and The Confluence Historic Site and Parkland demonstrates a commitment to the advancement of Truth and Reconciliation.

On 2023 September 30, a joint announcement was made to formally announce that the permanent Indian Residential School Memorial would be proceeding on City-owned lands at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers. A marker has been placed on the future site.

The project site for the permanent Indian Residential School Memorial at The Confluence, is located in the NE corner by the community garden and is approximately 2.3 acres/9,557 square meters in size with a perimeter of approximately 419 metres. See Attachment 3 for a map of the lands identified.

The City is pursuing a two-stage procurement process to secure a qualified design team for the Indian Residential School Memorial. This phase of the project is being guided by a professional advisor. The stage one RFPQ is currently open. The Indian Residential School Memorial project RFPQ has a stated total project value with a range of \$1 million (Council approved funds) and up to \$5 million.

The second stage competition will be facilitated through a Request for Proposal (RFP) format. Up to five teams will be shortlisted and invited to participate in stage two by preparing a

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proposal and design concept as part of the response to the second stage RFP. See Attachment 4 for the full project timeline. Administration will share outcomes of the design competition with Council.

There is wide range of existing Residential School Memorial sites across Canada including the Government of Alberta's 'reconciliation garden and residential school monument'. The Indigenous name awarded to their monument is *Kihciy Maskikiy/Aakaakmotaani*. Kihciy Maskikiy is Cree for 'sacred medicine' while Aakaakmotaani is Blackfoot for 'save many people'. It is customary between Cree and Blackfoot people to honour one another, and Province's naming convention on their monument is illustrative of this fact.

The Government of Alberta's reconciliation garden had a budget of \$1 million. The province's project provides a general expectation as to what can be accomplished with \$1 million. The City of Calgary can expect a similar memorial given the IRSM current project budget.

In August 2021, the Government of Canada announced \$20 million to build a national monument and will be featured on Parliament Hill in a publicly accessible and highly visible location. The City of Calgary IRSM project team met with the National 'Residential School Monument' team to trade notes. The National team was complementary of the IRSM team's progress and project planning knowledge was shared among the teams.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

An internal working group and an Elders' Advisory Committee, comprised of six local Elders, for the permanent memorial was established to advance this project.

External engagement was undertaken from September to December 2022. Based on the engagement results, a report back to the Indigenous community was held in May 2023 to validate the results through a what we heard report.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

The establishment of a permanent Indian Residential School Memorial is an important step on the journey of Truth and Reconciliation. The memorial will commemorate lost children and respect all survivors and inter-generational trauma survivors by providing a place for people to come to pay respects, support Indigenous peoples' healing from the legacy of colonization, reconnect with their Indigenous cultures, and create a place where Indigenous people and Calgarians can be together to celebrate Indigenous people and cultures. The Indian Residential School Memorial will also reflect and respect the diversity of all Indigenous nations, incorporate the spirit of the current temporary memorial and enhance the learning of non-Indigenous Calgarians.

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Environmental

Indigenous worldviews about the environment include the interconnectedness of all living things, respectful relationships with land and nature, and the responsibility to take care of the land. The future memorial will respect and honour these ways.

Economic

Economic Reconciliation is an integral part of Truth and Reconciliation. The permanent Indian Residential School Memorial will provide economic opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Calgarians from design to construction, including procurement, employment and consulting.

Service and Financial Implications

Existing capital funding - one-time

To recognize the children who did not return home from residential schools, \$1 million was approved by Council to establish a permanent memorial in Calgary in November 2021 during the 2022 Service Plans and Budget discussion.

As a commitment of Reconciliation, The Confluence confirmed an additional \$1 million in capital funding to the project this summer. Supporting this project is a necessary step for The Confluence in meeting the Calls to Action, and repairing the harm caused by the Residential School system.

RISK

Not following through on The City's commitments to advance Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and Pipe Ceremony could pose reputational, credibility and relationship impacts between The City, urban Indigenous Calgarians, Indigenous City employees and Calgarians.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Background and Previous Council Direction
2. Residential School Memorial Site
3. Letter of Partner
4. Indian Residential School Memorial Timeline
5. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Chris Arthurs	People, Innovation & Collaboration Services	Approve