

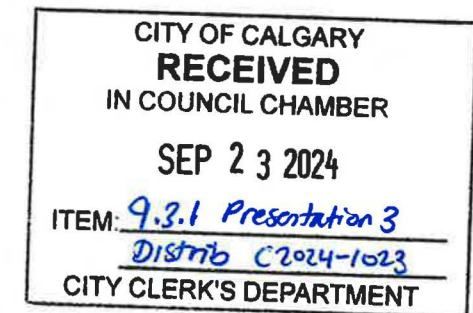
# Indigenous Council Day September 23<sup>rd</sup>

## Report Back on White Goose Flying Calls to Action

By: Lorna Crowshoe

Planning and Development Services: Regional Team

Action #57: Seasons of Reconciliation



# Seasons of Reconciliation - Objectives



Indigenous learning from place is a powerful resource when it is on the land and about the environment. Indigenous people have a historical relationship with land, and their lived experiences becomes their Indigenous knowledge.



Indigenous people participate as lifelong learners and teachers. They are generous in sharing their knowledge and world views. The field of planning is not only about built form and urban development but seeks ways to advance and transform our understanding that Indigenous people have inhabited this place for thousands of years.



We must learn to push past our biases and assumptions because it limits our collective knowledge, understanding and abilities to build a more inclusive and equitable city based on our shared foundations. Completion of this course work will provide professional opportunities to meet The City's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging goals and objectives.

4. Seasons offers a complete understanding of Indigenous Worldviews, or a comprehension of how the series connects to our work in planning as an established practice. The opportunity of this pilot is to connect all the pieces of information to establish a holistic understanding by sharing and connecting rather than working independently in siloed projects.

5. Similar to PDS' Women in City Building, the promotion of women as a catalyst for change is also important work for Indigenous women too. Historically, Indigenous women were matriarchs, but colonial structures disempowered and marginalized them. This includes how we can continue to incorporate land-based education that reflects gender rights of individuals, and their spiritual and cultural practices, and commitments to community health and well-being.

Partnership between Planning  
and Learning and Development

# Traditional Indigenous Knowledge and Learning from Place 2023/24 Sessions



# PDS Applicants and Participants



- Approximately 60-65 applicants are selected per year.
- Pre-reading is provided a week in advance on each topic before each session.
- Leaders are encouraged to attend. So far, 6 Directors and Managers have participated.

# Post-session Survey



## Feedback Summary: Seasons for Reconciliation (May 31, 2023) Summer – Culture, Ceremony and Song



■ Excellent ■ Very Good ■ Good  
■ Satisfactory ■ Poor



Overall rating for the learning experience in this session

Relevance to the work

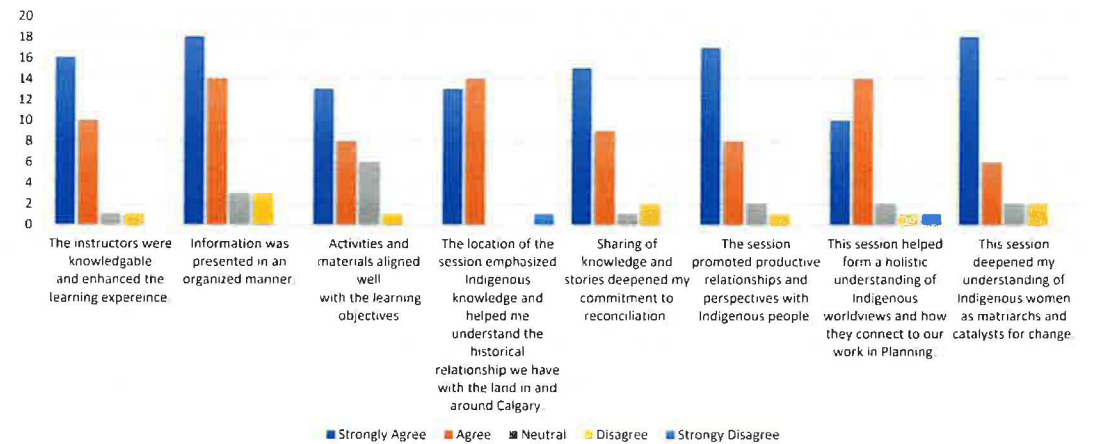


**81% Relevant**



## Feedback Details: Seasons for Reconciliation (April 26, 2023) Summer – Culture, Ceremony and Song

\*28/60 Participants Completed the Survey





## Suggestions for improving this session

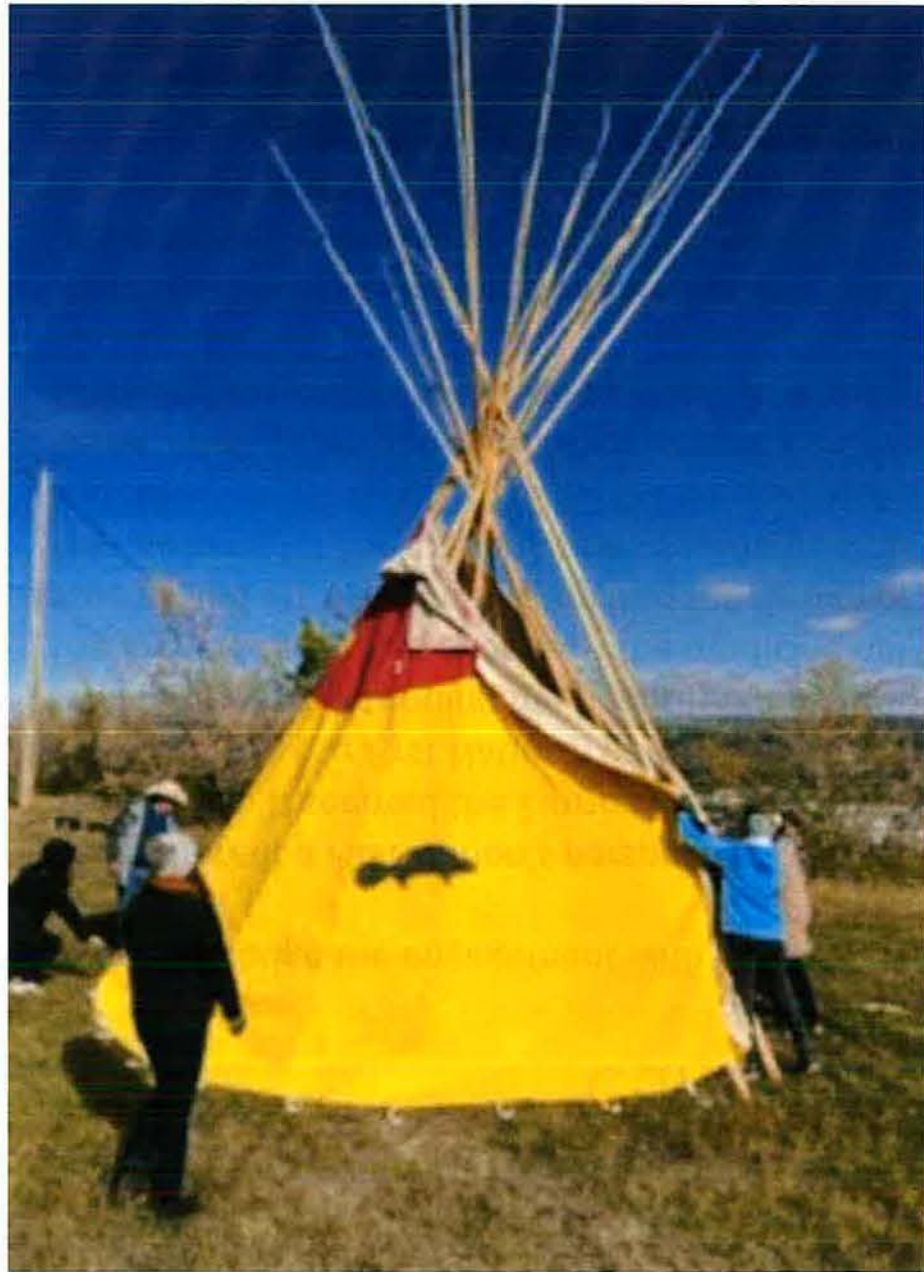
- A prior understanding of the cultural traditions, expectations and protocol would be helpful as an organizer and attendee.
- The city session was not as useful, the information had been presented a few times before to planning staff and it would have been more valuable if it had been 'flipped' and led by the First Nations individuals who had participated in the project engagement.
- I truly think there was a big miss in not hearing what was being said in the Tipi. I do recognize how honored we were to just be there, but the learning would have been improved by either hearing or having a person relay and explain what was happening to attendees on the outside of the tipi. To me not hearing what was being said detracted from how much more powerful the experience could have been.
- More coordinated presentation of the three initial speakers, perhaps one joint presentation and not three separate ones with lots of overlaps to save time.
- A bit more background on what a teepee transfer is; The City's responsibility to the teepee; and what was shared during ceremony would be helpful to really support understanding of the meaning of the day.
- It might have been nice to have a presentation on Culture, Ceremony, and Song prior to the ceremony that took place along with the presentation that we did see on the significance of Medicine Hill (which was good).
- Better timing with respect to lunch





## Participant Take Aways from Summer Session: Culture, Ceremony and Song

- To acknowledge the engagement with indigenous groups and work with them to translate the learnings of the land into planning.
- How different a First Nation's perspective on relationship building and maintenance is from the European/western perspective. It seemed the European/western perspective was driven by outcome (a means to complete the Medicine Hill project) while the First Nation's perspective was on relationship building and sharing essential knowledge of the land.
- I will remember attending the beautiful tipi and song transfer ceremony for the rest of my life.
- The archeological significance of the medicine hill with buffalo kill sites. Also, I never understood or noticed how indigenous aspects and art were integrated into the design of the properties there until now.
- That pushing for the preservation of heritage sites and kill sites is not a straightforward process and worth all the time delay and risks.
- Respect and appreciation of other people's worldviews. The words of the elder were very impactful.
- Relationships and trust take time, must do a better job in following through on commitments that are made in those discussions.
- Learning about the tipi transfer ceremony.
- Live experience and knowledge.
- I have a new understanding of the different types of Elders.
- The practice of bundle passing intergenerationally.
- Ways in which indigenous knowledge can be respected and incorporated into City Building.



Thank You