

## Infrastructure Services Briefing to

Regular Meeting of Council

2024 September 23

ISC: UNRESTRICTED

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## Indigenous Gathering Place Update

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### PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

To provide a status update on the Indigenous Gathering Place project.

- Administration is supporting the Indigenous Gathering Place Society, exploring possible locations for an Indigenous gathering place near the confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers.
- Administration will continue collaborating with the Indigenous Gathering Place Society in the coming months to further explore feasibility and to determine next steps.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### Council direction and Project intent

The 2016 White Goose Flying Report's Stream B: Spiritual healing, Culture and Arts Commemoration and the Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee's recommendation:

“request that the [City ...] work collaboratively to seek real estate, appropriate infrastructure, public buildings, gardens and parkland for Indigenous ceremonial, cultural, commemorative activities, as well as healing [and] acknowledge and respect Calgary's Indigenous archaeological sites”

The City and the Indigenous Gathering Place Society are honouring the commitments made during the May 2021 Smudge and Pipe Ceremony and Memorandum of Understanding, to work together to establish an Indigenous gathering place. In February 2022, Council also approved the Notice of Motion – Indigenous Gathering Place Land Transfer (EC2022-0150) directing Administration to:

- Confirm with the Indigenous Gathering Place Society its interest in land near the confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers, and
- Engage more broadly to identify a suitable location for an Indigenous gathering place near confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers.

#### Current Status

Administration, together with the Indigenous Gathering Place Society, has explored potential sites near the confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers. This year, the focus has been on assessing the feasibility of developing the Indigenous gathering place at the Indigenous Gathering Place Society identified preferred location. Geotechnical and environmental studies were completed; no concerns were identified if structures are above ground. Additionally, a submission regarding potential historical resource impacts has been made to the provincial government, with results expected in mid to late September. Further requirements may be identified by the Government of Alberta under the Historic Resources Act.

Since this project's last verbal update in October 2023, a project Steering Committee has been established within Administration. The Committee discusses challenges and opportunities to support the advancement of the project. Earlier this year, the Committee attended the

# **BRIEFING**

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Indigenous Gathering Place Society draft Business Plan presentation and a copy of the updated Business Plan was provided to The City for review. Administration continues to collaborate with the Indigenous Gathering Place Society as they refine their vision and approach.

The Steering Committee and working groups will continue collaborating with the Indigenous Gathering Place Society to enhance mutual understanding, respect cultural protocols, and build trusting relationships, aiming for a common beneficial outcome.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None

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General Manager Michael Thompson concurs with the information in this Briefing.