

Indigenous Gathering Place

# SUMMARY



Indigenous  
Gathering  
Place

February 2019





## Indigenous Gathering Place

For more information or to learn how you can get involved please  
contact the Indigenous Gathering Place Society of Calgary.

[www.indigenousgatheringplace.com](http://www.indigenousgatheringplace.com)

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Prepared for the  
Indigenous Gathering Place Society of Calgary

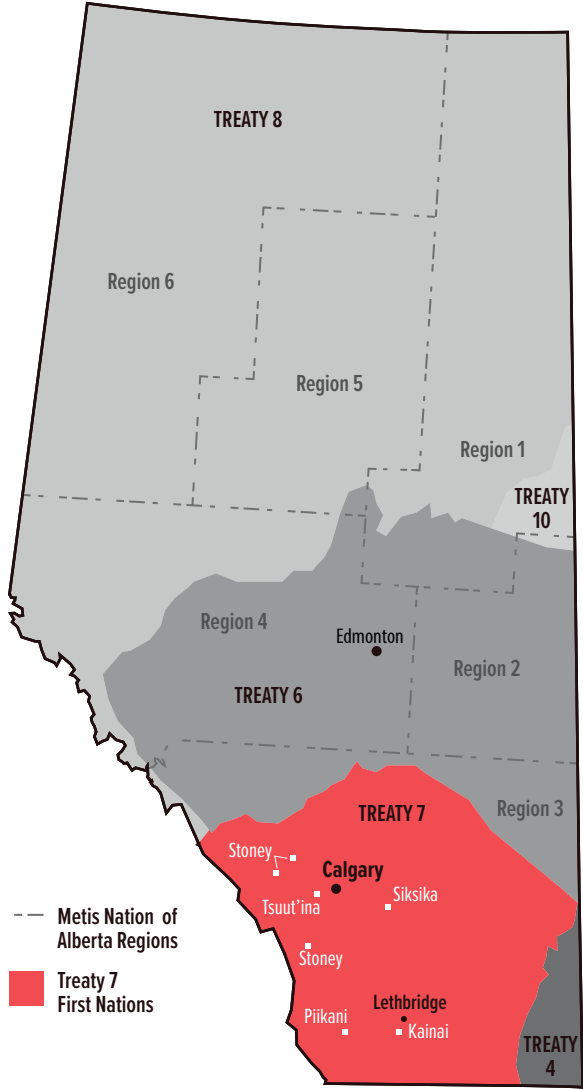
Prepared by:  
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Cover Photo: Tipi Owner: Reg Crowshoe (used with his permission)

Photo on opposite page: Honour Dance held in November 2017 at Mount Royal University; IGP formal announcement

# Land Acknowledgement

It is acknowledged that the land on which we gather are the traditional territories of the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) and the people of the Treaty 7 which includes the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai, from the Blackfoot Confederacy, as well as the Tsuut'ina, and the Lyarhe Nakoda. The City of Calgary is also home to the Metis Nation. The Indigenous Gathering Place Society of Calgary respects this presence past, present and future, and the knowledge, ways of being, language, culture, and traditions.



The above graphic shows the Treaty Areas and Métis Nation Regions in the Province of Alberta

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**i**  
Land Acknowledgement

**1**  
Introduction

**3**  
Mission/Values

**5**  
Shared Values

**7**  
Engagement

**9**  
Identified Sites

**10**  
Details of the IGP

**11**  
Policy Support

**13**  
Next Steps & Timeline

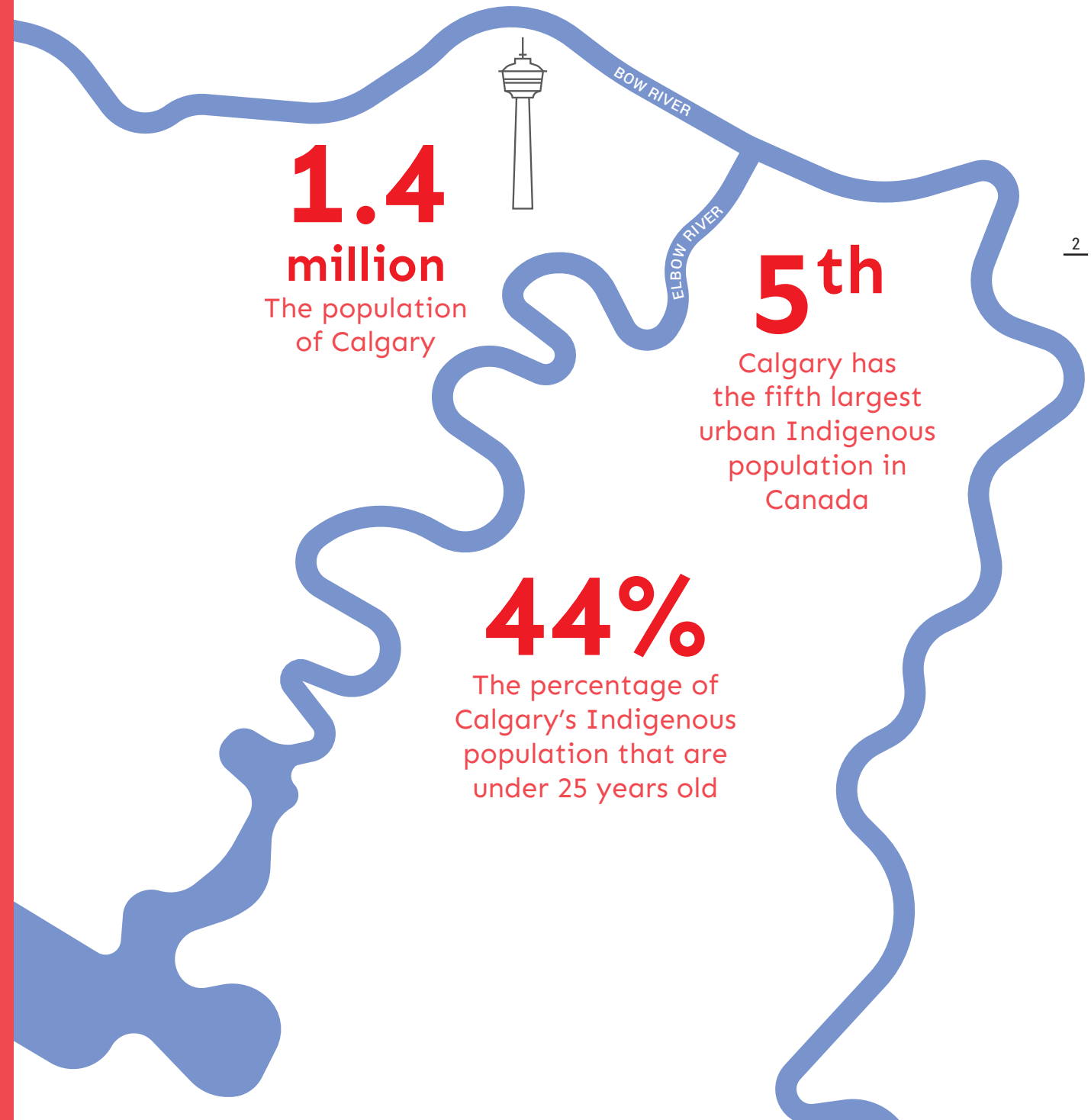
# INTRODUCTION

There is a pressing need to have a gathering space in Calgary where Indigenous Peoples can freely practice traditional ceremonies and cultural activities, and share our history through connection.

In 2014, a small group of Indigenous Peoples discussed the need for a gathering place in Calgary during a Reconciliation Canada workshop. They then pursued this vision and involved Indigenous Elders and other passionate individuals, eventually forming the Indigenous Gathering Place Society of Calgary.

The Indigenous Gathering Place (IGP) is the space where we will share, connect, heal, renew, and celebrate Indigenous culture.

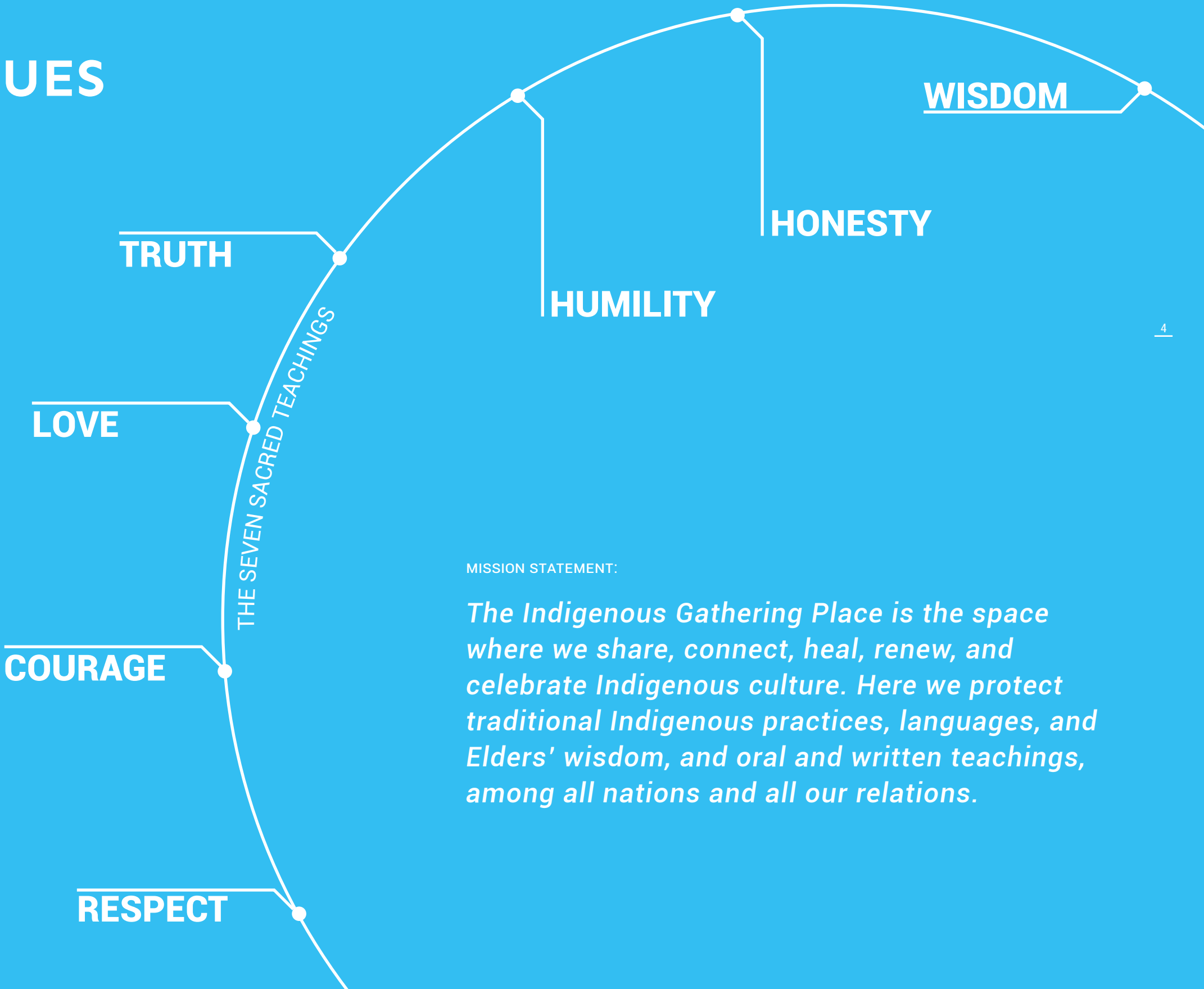
In this space we can revitalize and protect traditional Indigenous practices, languages, and Elders' wisdom, oral and written teachings, among all nations and all our relations.





# MISSION/VALUES

The mandate for an Indigenous Gathering Place is led by Indigenous Peoples, Elders, and youth who share a collective vision of a physical space where peoples of Calgary and area can learn and practice cultural, historical, and spiritual traditions associated with Indigenous ancestry.



MISSION STATEMENT:

*The Indigenous Gathering Place is the space where we share, connect, heal, renew, and celebrate Indigenous culture. Here we protect traditional Indigenous practices, languages, and Elders' wisdom, and oral and written teachings, among all nations and all our relations.*

# SHARED VALUES

In order to fully realize truth and reconciliation, it is important to equally respect both written and oral systems. This will create a place for all and remains relevant to everyone. It's a journey, a unique and new direction connected through partnership instead of conflict.

The Wampum Belt (below) signifies the treaty made between the Indigenous people and settlers. While this treaty was made between the Haudenosaunee and the Dutch government, the sentiment and approach applies to the Nations here in Alberta.



The belt represents the traditional western approaches. The two bands of beads run in parallel but never cross or sway each other. The centre white band runs between the two approaches and represents the Ethical Space, much like the foundational approach the IGP Society of Calgary works from.

The Ethical Space is a safe environment where everyone can explore ideas, aspirations, and thoughts. They can reconnect with traditions, protocols, and practices. This helps in defining a new future while preserving the unique perspectives, cultures, languages, and ways of knowing and being.



# ENGAGEMENT

This project has been rooted in extensive engagement from the beginning and will continue to include engagement as the process moves forward. Below are the highlights of our engagement:

- Extensive and continued multi-nation Indigenous Elder and youth involvement including with those living in and around Treaty 7
- Community surveys, conversations, monthly public meetings and facilitated discussions
- Ceremonial practices including Powwow community announcements, face painting, tea dances, pipe ceremonies and feasts
- Conversations with community partners
- Meeting with City of Calgary Mayor and Councillors, as well as administrative staff
- Provincial representatives including Minister Richard Feehan

Engagement helps identify what the IGP can look like, culturally-appropriate locations and uses, potential partners, and overall feasibility and support. By having ongoing engagement, especially with Elders and Indigenous youth, we are able to ensure we are spiritually and traditionally guided.

***"The Indigenous Gathering Place fills an essential need for all citizens of Calgary to have a safe place to meet with the Indigenous community, find parallels between written and oral systems, and find solutions."***

- Elder Reg Crowshoe



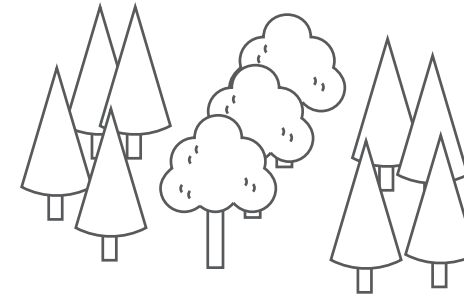


# IDENTIFIED SITES

Based on ongoing engagement with Elders two locations have been identified as possible sites. The first is the area surrounding the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers and the second is Nose Hill. These sites are significant to the Indigenous history and still carry strong meaning and connectedness today. The type of uses and development between the two sites would vary to properly respond to the physical surroundings, historical significance of the area, and City policy.

The IGP Society of Calgary will consider other opportunities as they are revealed.

# DETAILS OF THE IGP

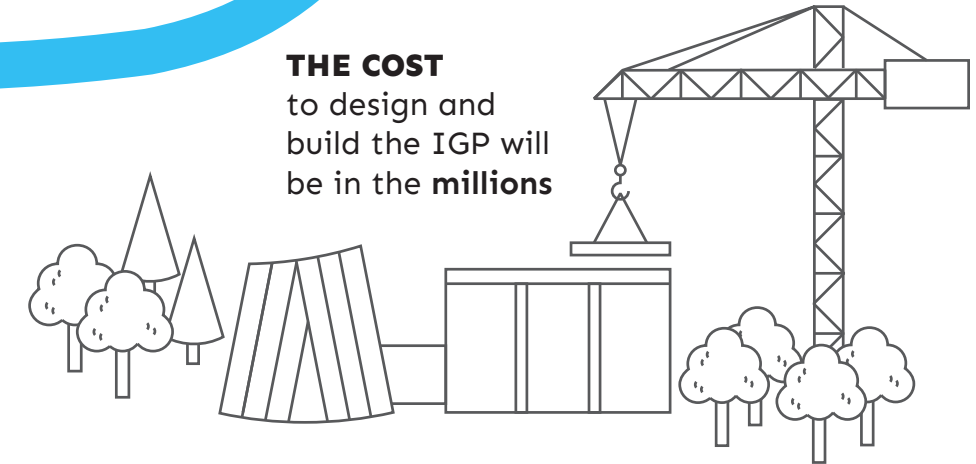


## THE SITE

will be located on **~10 acres** of land near a **natural setting**, ideally including a river

## THE COST

to design and build the IGP will be in the **millions**



## THE COMPLETED IGP

will accomodate **300-400** people inside the building and **500-1,000** people in the outdoor space





# POLICY SUPPORT

The *United Nations Declaration of Rights for Indigenous Peoples* and the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (TRC)* both support Indigenous Peoples' self-determination.

The City of Calgary has multiple documents, including the Indigenous Policy Framework and the White Goose Flying report, that further support self-determination and reconciliation.

The Indigenous Policy Framework provides an Indigenous historical context of the Calgary area and proposed policy and procedures that can help the process of reconciliation, strengthen self-determination and building stronger relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. The White Goose Flying report was written in response to the TRC report, looking at how the actions can be implemented on a Municipal level. Finally, land-use policies exist that support the development of the IGP on both potential locations.

**The IGP is an opportunity to implement these policies and recommendations.**



Confluence of the Bow River and Elbow River  
Calgary, Alberta 2014

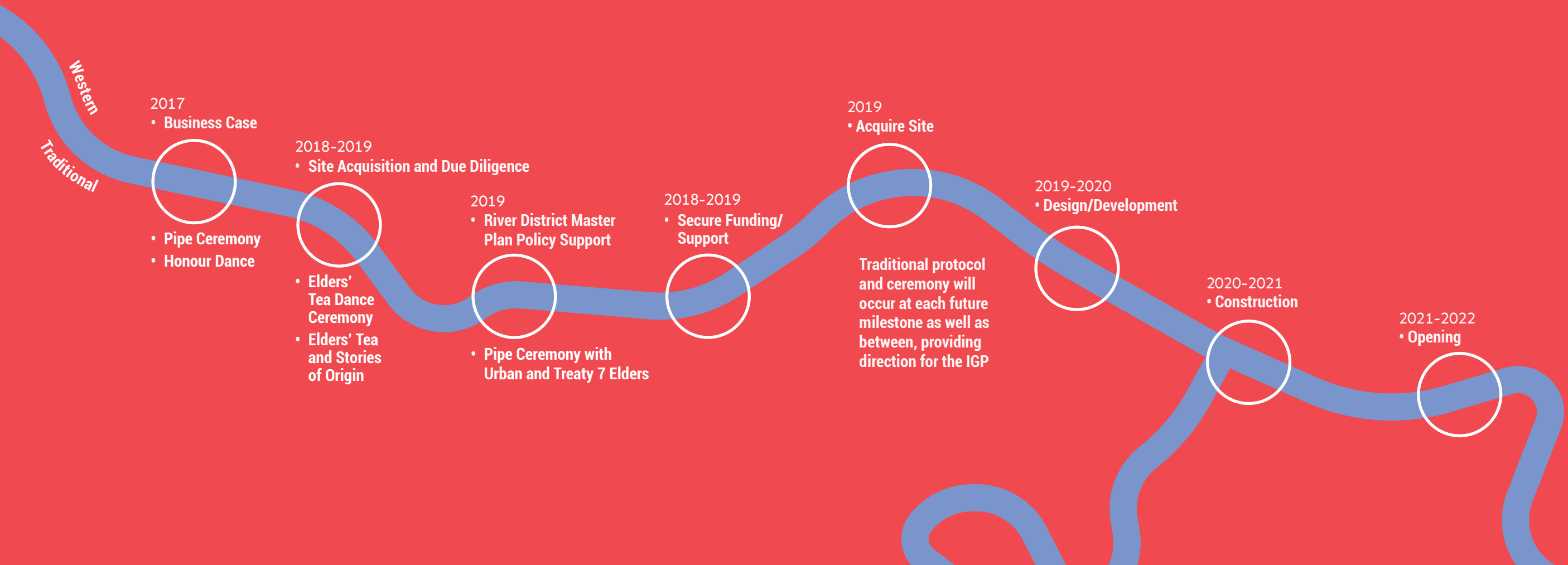


# NEXT STEPS & TIMELINE

The process for developing the IGP will continue to respect both traditional and western processes and protocols equally. Ceremonies will be held to partner with others and we will continue to work within the Ethical Space and create a social procurement policy. The following paragraph, and timeline, outline the next steps required for the IGP.

Engagement will continue throughout the process and will be used to help shape the future of the IGP. The feedback will inform the sustainability of the IGP for seven generations to come. The engagement and communications process will include exploring potential partnerships, Securing land and funding, developing a formal business plan, and designing and developing the IGP.

## TIMELINE







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[www.indigenousgatheringplace.com](http://www.indigenousgatheringplace.com)

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