

ABORIGINAL FRIENDSHIP CENTRE OF CALGARY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 | Fall/Winter 2018



AFCC OPENS DOWNTOWN LOCATION



Susan Brooke, VP Community Impact and Partnerships – United Way, Dr. Reg Crowshoe – Elder, Chief Constable Roger Chaffin, Tim Fox – Calgary Foundation, Mayor Nenshi

The iitaohkanitsini'kotsiiyo'p Hub, meaning a “place of conversation” is now open and serving community members. Framed and supported by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People’s, the Hub is the first of its kind in Canada. AFCC CEO Shane Gauthier says, “The Hub opening was not only a vision of AFCC, but also our funders to create an urban Indigenous presence in downtown Calgary.”

The Hub is home to programs and services in six areas including language and culture, education and training, employment services, health services/opioid response, women’s health and

wellbeing services/youth programming, crime prevention and community reintegration. AFCC welcomed seven talented new staff to run the programs.

The iitaohkanitsini'kotsiiyo'p Hub was given its Blackfoot name by Elder John Chief Moon Sr. at a naming ceremony July 5, 2018. His Worship Mayor Nenshi was on hand along with 100 Elders, partners, and community members. We were thrilled to have so many people share the day with us.

Earlier this year Elders Dr. Reg Crowshoe and Rose Crowshoe held a pipe ceremony in advance of the naming ceremony. At this event, Reg and Rose were joined by 15 Elders from across Canada to participate in the transferring of tenancy between Calgary Police Services, owner of the building, and the urban Indigenous community represented by AFCC, along with our funders, partners and community members.

The Hub is ideally located at the Cross Roads Centre, sharing space with agency partners SORCe, Alberta Mental Health, Inn from the Cold and Calgary Homeless Foundation.

To visit us or for more information, we are conveniently located on the LRT line at: 316 – 7 Avenue SE. We also provide bus passes for community members. You can call us at **403.270.7379** or visit our website at **www.afccalgary.org**.

**OPEN HOUSE
ALL ARE WELCOME!**
Nov 7, 2018 | Noon - 3pm
LOCATION: THE HUB, 316-7AVE SW
Stew and Bannock served.
Door prizes and live music.



WE HAVE A NEW LOOK

The Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary (AFCC) is excited to share our new look in concert with our new brand.

Many Nations. One Family.

The logo represents our commitment to continue the journey toward truth and reconciliation.

The mountains, river and Calgary skyline depict the beauty of Treaty 7 territory and the Metis Nation of Region 3.

We know a brand is more than a logo and a tag line. A brand is an experience. **Based on values of trust, respect, confidentiality, openness and acceptance, we want people who come through our doors to have a sense of community, of belonging.** We want our people to experience the AFCC as a welcoming, safe place where they are heard and they matter.

This is the experience our team strives to create in every interaction we have with our clients, visitors and partners.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to AFCC.



In Friendship,

Shane Gauthier
CEO
Aboriginal Friendship
Centre of Calgary



CALLING MY SPIRIT BACK

AFCC is proud to sponsor Stephanie English with a \$500 donation to support 'Calling my Spirit Back' in honour and memory of her daughter Joey English who passed on June 9, 2016.

The walk will take place on October 2nd at 7 am with family, friends and allies from Piikani First Nation and finish at the Olympic Plaza where they will join the "Building on Strength and Resilience" Vigil, October 4 at 11:30 am.

AFCC is partnered with Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society's for this 14th Annual Sisters in Spirit Vigil in honour of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and provides grieving families and communities with opportunities for healing.

Please join us and bring your drums, shawls, rattles and noise makers and be sure to wear red.

This event seeks to bring awareness to the violence experienced by Indigenous women and supports a groundswell movement for social justice and social change so that Indigenous women and girls can thrive and live safely in any community by receiving effective responses from police forces and the justice system when they are being victimized.

For more information about "Calling my Spirit Back", please contact Stephanie for more information or to donate at: email: englishstephjo817@gmail.com or phone: 587.998.4089

PREMIER VISITS ABORIGINAL FRIENDSHIP CENTRE CALGARY



On July 10, 2018 AFCC welcomed Premier Rachel Notley at our Annual Stampede BBQ where over 200 community members enjoyed great food, live music and face painting.

We were honoured to be one of the only agencies in Calgary to host the Premier during the Stampede! Board President Janice Gladue was on hand with CEO Shane Gauthier to present the Premier with an engraved desk clock and traditional blanket. She

also graciously gifted AFCC with an original piece of art.

The Premier was accompanied by several MLA's, including a long-time supporter Graham Sucha (Shaw) and our very own MLA Brandy Payne. Ministers David Eggen and Joe Ceci also joined in on the fun and pitched in to serve food!

On behalf of Calgary's 41,000 urban Indigenous Peoples AFCC thanks the Premier for all that she has done for the Indigenous community in Calgary and across Alberta.

WALKING ALONGSIDE OUR PARTNERS



The AFCC develops partnerships with organizations and takes a collaborative approach in delivering services, resources and programing to the Indigenous community across Calgary.

Shane Gauthier, CEO of AFCC says, "We are grateful to The United Way for their funding and shared vision in support of the iitaohkanitsini'kotsiiyio'p Indigenous Hubs. This center enables the urban Indigenous community to participate in and access a variety of services and resources from the collective Centre, at one single geographical location."

The iitaohkanitsini'kotsiiyio'p Indigenous Hubs cultural community programs are supported by the TRC's 94 Calls to Action

and United Nations Declaration for the Right of Indigenous Peoples.

"At United Way of Calgary and Area, we recognize the need to expand the range of services for the Indigenous community," says Karen Young, president and CEO. "The Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary plays an instrumental role in ensuring members of Calgary's urban Indigenous community have a centralized hub that will support them to build the kind of lives they envision for themselves. We are proud to walk alongside the Indigenous community in this opportunity to learn and work together."

As a result of the partnership between AFCC and The United Way, we are making a difference in the lives of the Indigenous community in Calgary.



United Way
Calgary and Area

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY



On November 1, 2018, AFCC will be launching Dolly Parton's Imagination Library! This is a free book gifting organization that is devoted to inspiring a love of reading in the hearts of children everywhere. Thanks to funding from AFCC, we will be enrolling Indigenous newborn/infant children to receive a high quality, age appropriate book in the mail, free of charge each month until age 5.

Dolly set up the first Imagination Library in 1995 in her hometown in Tennessee in honour of her father who could not read or write. Since then the Dollywood Foundation has sent over 100 million books away worldwide to promote literacy and foster the love of reading. Currently, there are 22,000 children receiving books in Canada EVERY month. Each year, more books featuring Canadian authors and illustrators are introduced into the program. Additionally, titles with themes and subjects that appeal to the Canadian readers are added.



Reading is one of the single most important things we can do for our children and encourages bonding and development of language and communication. Just having access to books from a young age is important and can have a positive impact for a child such as developing language skills, improved concentration and encouraging lifelong learning.

Shane Gauthier, CEO of AFCC, met Dolly at a concert in Vancouver BC in 2016. "When we heard about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library we were impressed with the program and the impact it could have on the children we serve", said Gauthier. "We value the importance of investing in the early years to bring about change in the future"

Jeanne Smitiuch, Regional Director for the Dollywood Foundation of Canada said, "Momentum is building across Canada and we are thrilled to welcome the Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary on board. When I head to Tennessee at the end of the month, I will report on your progress and know that Dolly will be delighted to hear that AFCC newborns will be given the opportunity to have a love of reading".



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Tracy Anderson has been a case manager with AFCC since early 2017 and was recently promoted to Team Lead for the Aboriginal Homelessness Initiative.

Born in Northern Alberta, her Métis heritage combined with her experience in serving the community in the areas of homelessness, domestic violence and low-income demographics, is what makes her a valuable resource to our team. Tracy works closely with the Calgary Homeless Foundation to deliver programs that fill the gap and reconnect the Indigenous community through taking a culturally-based approach towards addressing social and economic realities affecting the community. Tracy's goal is to make a positive difference in people's everyday lives.

GET YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Forms available on our website:

www.afccalgary.org

To access our calendar or for more information about AFCC programs and services, please visit our website at www.afccalgary.org or contact us at:

#101, 427 – 51 Avenue SE
Calgary, Alberta T2H 0M8
Office: (403) 428-3361
info@afccalgary.org

