



INFO BOOKLET

AFCC at a Glance: Your quick guide to our programs, services, and community initiatives.

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MANY NATIONS. ONE FAMILY.™

OUR WELCOME TO YOU

"Oki, Tansi, Danit'ada, Aba Washded, Hello!

Welcome to the Aboriginal Friendship
Centre of Calgary. For over 20 years, we've
been dedicated to supporting the holistic
well-being of our urban Indigenous
community. This booklet offers a glimpse
into who we are, what we do, and how you
can connect with us. We are proud to be
your trusted partner in culture, connection,
and community."

– Shane Gauthier, CEO








**ABORIGINAL
FRIENDSHIP
CENTRE OF CALGARY**
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ABOUT AFCC OUR PURPOSE

AFCC is a non-profit hub using holistic, traditional approaches to serve and empower Calgary's urban Indigenous community.

 **Our Mission:** Building relations for cultural connection and economic inclusion within our urban Indigenous community.

 **Our Vision:** Removing barriers and uplifting our urban Indigenous community through cultural reconnection, vital programs, services, and resources.

 **Our Values:** Humble | Innovative | Respectful |
Supportive Accountable | Transparent | Inclusive |
Collaborative





OUR ROOTS:

THE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE MOVEMENT

AFCC is proud to be part of the nationwide Friendship Centre Movement – Canada's most significant off-reserve Indigenous service delivery network since the 1950s. We are supported by and collaborate with:



National Association
of Friendship Centres

National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC)

Website: <https://nafc.ca/>

NAFC is the national body for over 100 Friendship Centres and Provincial/Territorial Associations across Canada.

NAFC advocates for urban Indigenous Peoples and supports its member centres in their community-driven work.



Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA)

Website: <https://anfca.com/>

ANFCA is the provincial body supporting 21 member Friendship Centres in Alberta, including AFCC. ANFCA helps these centres enhance the quality of life for urban Indigenous people through support, networking, and advocacy.





OUR CORE SERVICES: SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

The Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary offers holistic, culturally-grounded support through four key service pillars, designed to meet diverse needs and empower our urban Indigenous community:



Community Outreach & Cultural Reconnection:

Rekindling heritage, fostering belonging, building community ties.



Housing Services: Providing safe, affordable, and culturally appropriate homes & support.



Community Member Services: Access to essential resources, support networks, and personal growth.



Elders Services: Honouring our wisdom keepers with dedicated care, programs, and spaces.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & CULTURAL RECONNECTION

We rekindle heritage, foster belonging, and build vibrant community ties for urban Indigenous peoples through shared cultural experiences and traditional teachings.



Encampment Support: Our team meets community where they are, offering culturally-grounded support and the first point of connection on their path to healing and stability.

Honouring the Bonds: This program strengthens kinship by helping young families reconnect with traditional culture and values. It focuses on building healthy foundations through shared cultural learning and community support

Honouring Life: Designed for youth, this initiative provides a safe space for land-based camps, mentorship, and identity discovery. Our team helps youth navigate the transition to adulthood by anchoring them in ceremony and ancestral teachings



HOUSING SERVICES: SAFE HOMES, STRONG FUTURES

The Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary (AFCC) is committed to addressing housing insecurity by providing safe, stable, and culturally appropriate housing solutions and supports to foster well-being for our community members in Calgary.

Omahkitapioyis Elders' Lodge Apartments



Elders' Lodge Apartments

Our award-winning Omahkitapioyis Elders' Lodge is a 12-unit, non-market apartment building owned and operated by AFCC. It offers fully furnished, independent living that honours the dignity and wisdom of Indigenous seniors. With culturally enriched spaces for ceremonies and community gatherings, and the dedicated support of an on-site Cultural Coordinator, the Lodge is a place of vibrant cultural connection.

The Bromley Place Apartments



The Bromley Place

An 8-unit building owned and operated by the AFCC, Bromley Place provides safe, independent living in 1-bedroom units for community members requiring housing support. AFCC has invested significantly to renovate and maintain the property, ensuring a dignified and supportive home for all tenants.

Aboriginal Housing Initiative (AHI)



AHI

The Aboriginal Housing Initiative walks alongside Indigenous adults to foster stability and personal wellness through culturally grounded, one-on-one support. Our team assists community members in navigating systems and securing essentials like ID and tenant rights, empowering them to thrive on their own terms.

Access Note: AHI intake is managed exclusively through Calgary's Coordinated Access and Assessment (CAA) system via SORCe.

Indigenous Women Safe Housing Project



Future Family Housing

We are building a 18-unit sanctuary in Crescent Heights, providing a safe, culturally grounded haven for Indigenous women, including singles, mothers with children, and Elders. This project fosters healing and stability through a mix of dignified housing and traditional spaces, ensuring every generation of women has a secure place to call home.

For general housing inquiries, please email:
info@afcccalgary.org.

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Grounded in our cultural values, AFCC provides essential resources and support networks to empower Indigenous individuals and families on their path to well-being and growth. Our key services include:

Justice Program

This program supports community reintegration and crime prevention through one-on-one counselling, traditional teachings, and sacred practices focused on healing and accountability. By collaborating with Indigenous Court and police services, our Coordinator provides a holistic support network to help participants maintain stability and prevent relapse.

- Contact: Kelsey , Justice Coordinator kmccarthy@afccalgary.org

Status Card Clinic

AFCC provides crucial assistance with Secure Certificate of Indian Status (Status Card) applications and renewals at the Navigation & Support Centre. We now also offer registration services under the Indian Act, guiding eligible individuals through the process of being registered for the first time.

- Contact: Bailey Dodds, bdodds@afccalgary.org | 368-999-8041.
- Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm (closed 12-1pm), Fri 9am-12pm.

Navigation & Support Centre Services

As a vital partner at the Salvation Army's Navigation and Support Centre of Hope, AFCC provides the dedicated Indigenous cultural support on-site. From our desk, a staff member offers a culturally safe connection point, guiding individuals to a wide network of resources and back to AFCC's own cultural programs and ceremonies.

Other Key Supports

Our team walks alongside community members, offering holistic support. We provide referrals and resources for essential needs, and foster cultural connection by hosting community events and linking individuals to traditional resources and programming.



ELDERS SERVICES

HONOURING OUR WISDOM KEEPERS

Honouring our Elders as the heart of our community, AFCC is dedicated to providing culturally rich programs and welcoming spaces that support their well-being and celebrate their vital role as wisdom keepers. Our support for Elders is built on two key pillars: a place to gather and a place to call home.



KANAKAATSI'NOM - ELDERS' DROP-IN CENTRE

Meaning 'All Friends Place,' Kanakaatsi'nom is Calgary's first dedicated Indigenous Elders' drop-in centre. It is a vibrant and welcoming space where Elders can gather for cultural activities, share language, participate in ceremonies, and enjoy the support of their community. Laughter and kinship are at the heart of the Centre, located at 4630 16 Ave NW.



OMAHKITAPIOYIS- ELDERS' LODGE APARTMENTS

Our Elders' Lodge provides a safe, dignified, and culturally rich home for Indigenous seniors to live independently while staying connected to community. (See our Housing Services section on page 6 for more details).

Beyond these dedicated spaces, Elders are integral to the spirit and guidance of AFCC as a whole. They are our mentors and teachers—sharing their wisdom, leading ceremonies, and guiding our programs across the entire community.





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OUR LOCATIONS: FIND US IN CALGARY

From 7 distinct sites across Calgary, AFCC offers accessible services and culturally rich spaces, committed to uplifting our urban Indigenous community and supporting vulnerable populations.

Outreach

1944 10 Ave SW,
Calgary, AB T2G 4V1

Kanakaatsi'nom

Elders' Drop-in Centre

4630 16 Ave NW,
Calgary, AB T2M 0L4

Omahkitapioyis

Elders' Lodge Apartments

352 34 Ave NE,
Calgary, AB T2E 2J7

Indigenous Warming Centre (Seasonal)

4628 16 Ave NW,
Calgary, AB T3B 0M8

The Bromley Place

(Apartments)

120 29 Ave NW,
Calgary, AB T2M 2L8

Navigation & Support Centre Services

(Located at Salvation Army
Centre of Hope)

420 9 Ave SE,
Calgary, AB T2G 0E7

Naatowápitao'ohkánnao'p (Holy Gathering Place)

Booking & Info:
theconfluence.ca/gather





OUR IMPACT:

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY, TOGETHER.

Every day, AFCC works to create meaningful change and build pathways to healing, connection, and well-being. Our impact is seen not just in numbers, but in the strengthened spirit of our urban Indigenous community. Here are a few highlights of what we've achieved together.

By the Numbers:

- The SCIS Clinic has now assisted nearly 1500 clients, providing essential support to Indigenous community members in need of SCIS and registration services. This growing demand reflects how vital and valued this service is within the community.
- Over 5,600 bagged lunches were provided to community members in need in a single quarter, offering vital nourishment and a moment of connection.

Building for the Future:

- Safe Housing for Indigenous Women: AFCC is building an 18-unit sanctuary providing safe, culturally grounded, and permanent homes for Indigenous women, children, and Elders.
- Holy Gathering Place: Now open, Naatowápitao'ohkánnao'p is a dedicated 1,000-square-foot holy gathering place for Indigenous ceremony and community connection.

Community Recognition:

- The Calgary Award (2024): We were honoured to be the first-ever Indigenous organization to receive the prestigious Community Advocate Organization award.
- Art Smith Award: Our Omahkitapioyis Elders' Lodge was recognized with the Art Smith Award for Building of the Year, celebrating its excellence in design and community impact.

EVENTS & GETTING INVOLVED: JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

AFCC hosts a variety of cultural events, workshops, and community gatherings throughout the year. From Powwows and Round Dances to educational workshops and family feasts, there's always a way to connect.



Visit our website for the latest
event calendar!

Interested in volunteering? Email
info@afccalgary.org.





DONATE NOW:

HELP US CREATE
PATHWAYS TO
HEALING AND
BELONGING

Your generosity helps us provide vital services, foster cultural connections, and empower Calgary's urban Indigenous community.

Every contribution makes a difference.



Ways to Donate:

Online: Securely via Canada Helps (Link on our website).

Mail: Cheques to address on back cover.

Other: Email info@afccalgary.org to discuss other ways to give. AFCC is a registered charity: 847902277RR0001.

LET'S CONNECT! JOIN THE AFCC FAMILY!

We love hearing from you and sharing our journey! Connecting with our community is at the heart of what we do. Whether you have a question, want to learn more about our programs, or simply wish to say "Ok!", here's how you can reach out and stay in the loop:

Reach Out & Say Hello!



Give Us a Call: (403) 270-7379



Send an Email: info@afcccalgary.org



Visit Our Outreach Location:

1944 10 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2G 4V1



Join Our Online Community! Follow, Like & Share the Spirit!



Our Website: Dive deeper at www.afcccalgary.org



Be Our Friend! (AFCCalgary)



See Our Stories! (@AFCCalgary)



Connect with Us Professionally! (Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary)



Watch Our Journey! (AFCC Calgary Youtube Channel)



WITH GRATITUDE

Our Partners & Funders

Collaboration is fundamental to the Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary's ability to provide culturally relevant services and achieve our mission. We are deeply grateful for the strong relationships and vital support we receive from all our partners.

We gratefully acknowledge the significant contributions of key supporters including:





HUMILITY • BRAVERY • HONESTY • WISDOM • TRUTH • RESPECT • LOVE

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

To create pathways of support, healing, and
belonging for a stronger tomorrow.



DONATE NOW!

To make a donation,
please scan the QR code
for more details or email
us at info@afccalgary.org.



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