



RECONCILIATION
LETHBRIDGE

Building & Strengthening Relationships

Lethbridge Municipality with Local and Regional
Indigenous Communities

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are gathered on the lands of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains and pay respect to the Blackfoot people past, present and future while recognizing and respecting their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship to the land. The City of Calgary is also home to the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III.



*"COMING
TOGETHER"*





Perspectives

Municipal Perspective

Acknowledgement:

- Of the traditional territory and the people of that territory
- Of the diversity of Indigenous people and their specific cultural context
 - First Nations, Métis and Inuit people
- Of the different relationship between rural and urban Indigenous communities
 - Regional and Municipal relationships



*"COMING
TOGETHER"*



Municipal Perspective

Recognition & Acknowledgement – Cont'd

- Of the negligence in the relationship between the municipality and the Indigenous community (regionally and locally)
- That the work will not always be clear, strategic and intentional (the plan).
 - Openness to opportunities as they present themselves – aligned back to objectives and outcomes



"COMING
TOGETHER"



Municipal Perspective

Recognition & Acknowledgement – Cont'd

- Of the need for education and awareness of the TRC and Indigenous context.
- What is the community already doing? How does/can the City align?

Leadership

- From City Council and Senior Administration
 - Staff commitment



*"COMING
TOGETHER"*



Indigenous Perspective

- History
 - 1990's – Interagency Group
 - 2006-2014 – Aboriginal Council of Lethbridge
 - 2016 – Lethbridge Indigenous Sharing Network
- Lethbridge Aboriginal Community Plan
- Strategic Areas of Focus
 - Social Justice
 - Employment, Education & training
 - Health and Wellness
 - Community Supports & Services



"COMING
TOGETHER"



Indigenous Perspective

- Historical relationship with the City
 - Negligent, disconnected
- New relationship with the City
 - Collaborative
- Still, the relationship can always be better, but it is a start



*"COMING
TOGETHER"*



Shared Perspective

Building & Sustaining Relationships

- Relationship before process
- Relationship as a key outcome
 - using projects as a vessel to meet that outcome
- Discussion builds further context and knowledge
 - Better understanding of the “why”
 - Builds trust and healthy relationships



*“COMING
TOGETHER”*



Shared Perspective

Building & Sustaining Relationships – Cont'd

- Bridging two worlds / ways of doing things
 - Balance between Western (academic/professional) knowledge and Traditional Indigenous knowledge
 - New way of doing things
- Relationships build resiliency
 - Responsiveness and adaptation
- Small but meaningful acts go a long way



"COMING
TOGETHER"



Shared Perspective

Interconnectedness / Butterfly Effect

- Triggering events
- Small causes having large effects
- Interconnection of events and people

The "Why"

- Provides purpose and cause
- Personal commitment towards the "why"



"COMING
TOGETHER"



Challenges

- Combating dominant paradigms
- Defining our role in relation to others
- Narrow thinking
- Veiled discourse
- Failing to see change
- Adversarial default position



*"COMING
TOGETHER"*



Successes

Regional (SSRP)

- Traditional Knowledge and Use Assessment (TKUA)

Reconciliation Lethbridge

- Reconciliation Implementation Plan
- Reconciliation Week
- Blackfoot Confederacy flag raising





Reconciliation Lethbridge

The Collaboration

Reconciliation Lethbridge

A local response to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action, leading the way in engaging all people of Lethbridge in dialogue and transformative experiences that revitalize the relationships among Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous peoples. We believe in open and honest conversations to understand our diverse histories and experiences, leading to healing and a coming together.



*"COMING
TOGETHER"*



Reconciliation Lethbridge

Reconciliation Lethbridge is comprised of the Lethbridge Indigenous Sharing Network and the City of Lethbridge.



LISN

Lethbridge Indigenous
Sharing Network



CITY OF
Lethbridge



"COMING
TOGETHER"





Lethbridge City Council endorsed the Reconciliation Implementation Plan in June of 2017


"COMING
TOGETHER"



Vision

The City of Lethbridge values inclusion, equity and diversity in our community and is committed to becoming a community of reconciliation with our Indigenous population on Blackfoot lands and working in partnership with the Lethbridge Indigenous Sharing Network, the Kainai Nation and the Piikani Nation.



*"COMING
TOGETHER"*



Guiding Principles

- Active Participation
- Communication & Public Awareness
- Service Provision
- Cultural Identity & Heritage
- Commemoration



*"COMING
TOGETHER"*



Lethbridge Calls to Action

Municipal Action Recommended

- Jordan's Principle
- Canadian Governments and the UNDRIP
- Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation
- National Council for Reconciliation
- PD and Training for Public Servants



"COMING
TOGETHER"



Lethbridge Calls to Action

Community Support Recommended

- Child Welfare
- Education
- Language and Culture
- Health / Justice
- Justice
- Settlement Agreement Parties and the UNDRIP
- Missing Children and Burial Information
- National centre for Truth and Reconciliation
- Commemoration
- Sports and Reconciliation
- Business and Reconciliation

*"COMING
TOGETHER"*





RECONCILIATION LETHBRIDGE

two jagged
worlds
(coming together)

The concept of the Reconciliation Lethbridge logo is based on Leroy Little Bears notion of two jagged worlds colliding (noted in his article, "Jagged Worldviews Colliding").

The graphic takes a slight shift in depicting these "two jagged worlds" - coming together. To converge is to move or cause to move towards the same point, to come together from different directions so as eventually to meet, to tend towards a common result.

The graphic is captured in a circle, which is symbolic of many Indigenous cultures, but also illustrates the focus on collaboration, reciprocity and our coming together as a whole.

The dots within the two halves are interpretive. The dots on the one half represent the First Nations, Metis and Inuit cultures (including non-status First Nations people) while the three dots on the other half represent the original settlers to Canada, Canadian born citizens, and immigrants and to Canada.

The graphic highlights the four sacred colours of the Medicine Wheel and the alignment of the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual realities. The colours also represent the diversity of people in Lethbridge and Canada.

The graphic elicits elements of nature, with the middle zig zag pattern depicting mountains, rivers and a red sunrise. The upper portion resembling the night sky and the bottom portion resembling golden wheat fields or prairie grass.

The graphic also displays elements of the Sun, the Moon and the Morning Star (powerful Blackfoot images), illustrating the light of both day and night, to guide us in reconciliation.



"COMING
TOGETHER"



rec·on·cil·i·a·tion

[rekən,silē'āSH(ə)n] /noun/

the restoration of friendly relations
and a coming together.



"COMING
TOGETHER"

www.lethbridge.ca/Reconciliation

facebook.com/ReconciliationLethbridge



*"COMING
TOGETHER"*

