ICC Red Deer Newsletter

Indigenous Culture Centre | Red Deer Community Update



Our vision

The Indigenous Culture Centre is an Indigenous led initiative shaped by community voices, cultural values, and responsibility for the long term stewardship of land in Red Deer. The Centre will create a welcoming space for ceremony, culture, learning, healing, and connection.

Our mission

The mission of the Indigenous Culture Centre in Red Deer is to create a welcoming, Indigenous led space that strengthens culture, connection, healing, and community. The Centre will honour Indigenous teachings, support ceremony and learning, and bring together Elders, youth, families, and the wider community to build understanding and a shared future rooted in respect and reconciliation.

Why this matters

For more than 30 years, Indigenous leaders and community members in Red Deer have advocated for a permanent cultural space. The Centre is intended to support cultural continuity, knowledge sharing, ceremony, healing, Indigenous self determination, and respectful relationships with the wider community.

Community invitation: This project belongs to the community. We welcome respectful participation, questions, ideas, and support as the work moves forward.

A recommended site for the future

The Mâmawatoskêwak Advisory Circle recommends Michener Park and the Michael O’Brien Wetlands because the area offers a central location, natural surroundings, healing and reclamation potential, and room for long term Indigenous led development. The recommendation remains connected to land transfer, planning, servicing, environmental, and approval processes.

Site comparison

Site	Strengths	Key concerns
Michener Park / O’Brien Wetlands	Central access; natural setting; healing and reclamation meaning; room to grow; potential for Indigenous stewardship.	Remediation; wetland protection; nearby development; timing of land transfer and services.
Heritage Ranch	Water, trails, plant medicines, ceremony, and cultural tourism potential.	Privacy, public recreation conflicts, flood and erosion risk, highway noise, winter access, and existing operations.
Signet Close	High visibility, access, and potential as a reconciliation landmark.	Limited space, highway noise, complex ownership, commercial pressure, and limited natural ceremonial connection.

Community identified needs

The community identified a preference for more than 30 acres, with expansion toward 100 acres where possible. Priorities include outdoor ceremonial space, powwow grounds, tipis, culture camps, medicine gardens, food sovereignty, water access, healing spaces, and land based learning. Indoor needs include a flexible facility of at least 10,000 square feet, ceremonial and gathering areas, a kitchen, storage, administration, learning areas, wellness and social service space, and entrepreneurship opportunities.

A community guided process

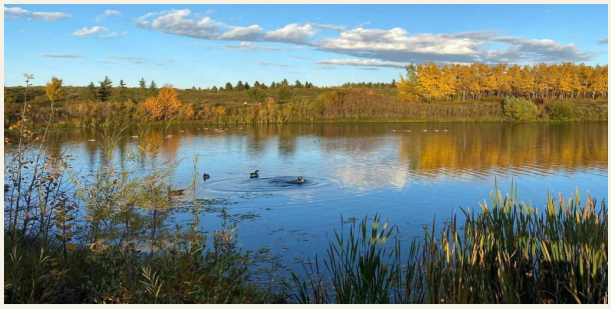
A community conversation in fall 2024 gathered approximately 100 people and established early site and facility needs. A Working Collaborative Group reviewed 22 potential sites, and the Mâmawatoskêwak Advisory Circle narrowed the options through community identified criteria. Site visits, community feedback, Elder engagement, and consultations with Indigenous cultural initiatives in Edmonton and Calgary informed the recommendation.

Community updates and ways to participate

COMMUNITY WEEKLY WALKS

Wednesdays at 7 pm
Michael O'Brien Wetland, 55 Street

Bring walking shoes, water, and clothing suitable for the weather. All ages are welcome.



Walking together creates an informal way to connect with the land, meet neighbours, and continue building community relationships.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Community engagement will continue through regular gatherings, sharing circles, smaller working groups, social media, a website, newsletters, and direct relationship building. Youth voices and Elder guidance are important parts of the work.

Scan the QR code for ICC information and updates.

Current project updates

The Working Collaborative Group has recognized the need to establish a nonprofit structure, clarify governance, formalize an Elders advisory process, maintain transparent communication, and create a coordinated work plan. Website development and video materials are also being prepared to help share the project with the community.

Funding and planning update

Meeting notes identified $250,000 available in 2026 for a design charrette, facilitation, and nonprofit creation. A further $4 million has been identified for the project in 2027, although timing may move to 2028. These figures are planning information and remain subject to approvals and project requirements.

Next steps

Immediate priorities include confirming the site pathway, creating the Site Development Advisory Circle, establishing an Indigenous led nonprofit or trust, formalizing the Elders advisory structure, preparing an engagement plan, coordinating with the City on land and servicing matters, and beginning Indigenous led design work. The project will proceed in phases so that community priorities, cultural protocols, technical information, costs, and approvals remain connected.

Thank you to the community members, Elders, youth, partners, volunteers, and City staff who continue to support this work.

August Newsletter

August 2026, Community Update, Issue 1





Our August potluck brought community members together on the land.

Coming together over food

On August 15, we came together on the land for our ICC community potluck. It was a chance to share food, visit and connect around our hopes for the Centre.

Our Engagement Circle volunteers helped bring the gathering together and make people feel welcome. Thank you to everyone who brought food, helped get things ready or joined us. Every helping hand makes a difference.

Keeping our community connected

We also connected through a community barbecue and continued planning walks, gatherings and opportunities to learn together. Spending time with one another helps us build the relationships that will carry the ICC forward.

Working together

At our August 17 Working Collaborative Circle meeting, we agreed on our Terms of Reference, the shared guidelines for how we work together. We can update them as we learn and grow. We also talked about how members can help with community activities, marketing, communications and our website.

Our Elders' and community voices help guide this work. As we build relationships, we are also building the foundation for our Centre.

Stay connected

Have an idea or want to lend a hand? We would love to hear from you. Email info@reddeericc.ca or visit www.reddeericc.ca to learn more and get involved.

September Newsletter

September 2026, Community Update, Issue 2









September views of the land, shared by our community.

Walking the land and learning together

We welcomed interested participants for a walk through the land connected to our future ICC. It was a chance to spend time together, notice the land and water, ask questions and share our hopes for the Centre.

We spent time on the land with participants, learning together and sharing what we noticed.



Bingo and community connection

September also included community bingo. Gathering for games and visiting offered another way to bring people together and strengthen relationships around the ICC. Thank you to the volunteers who helped make this time together possible.

Bingo and refreshments at our September gathering.

Supporting community gatherings

ICC members also coordinated volunteer support for the September 20 Harvest Farewell Lunch, including an ICC information table and opportunities to share project information.

September 30

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day

Every Child Matters

Orange reminds us that Every Child Matters.

September 30 honours residential school Survivors, the children who never returned home, and the families and communities affected by the residential school system. It is a day to listen, learn, remember and reflect on the lasting impacts of that history.

Orange Shirt Day grew from the experience of residential school Survivor Phyllis Webstad, whose orange shirt was taken from her when she arrived at school. Wearing orange carries the message that Every Child Matters.

ICC volunteers gave their time

ICC volunteers gave their time at the museum's Truth and Reconciliation event on September 30, volunteering as ICC members and as members of their own organizations. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day a time for remembrance, learning and coming together.

The ICC's vision for a place of culture, ceremony, learning, healing and connection carries this responsibility beyond one day. Continuing to learn, support Indigenous voices and build respectful relationships is part of the work ahead.





Land and water connected to the community's vision for the Centre.

Learn more: canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html

Stay connected

Share your ideas or offer help at info@reddeericc.ca. Visit www.reddeericc.ca for project information and ways to take part.

October Newsletter

October 2026, Community Update, Issue 3

We continue working toward a permanent Indigenous cultural space in Red Deer where people can gather for ceremony, learning, healing and connection. This month’s update shares the project’s current priorities and the community involvement we hope to grow.

Continuing the nonprofit work

Our focus is on developing the nonprofit organization, gathering community ideas and preparing for future design work. A nonprofit works toward a shared purpose rather than making profits for owners. Draft bylaws are being developed to explain how the organization will operate.

Meeting with the City

We met with the City of Red Deer to talk about our next steps. The City encouraged us to keep building the nonprofit and continue our community work. The City is leading an Area Structure Plan, which sets out how the land can be used and developed. The Centre’s design will need to fit with that plan.

More opportunities to take part

We hope to create more community engagement sessions, including gatherings at other community locations when activities cannot take place on the land. These could offer space to hear questions, share updates and learn what people want from the Centre. Dates, locations and formats will be shared once confirmed.

What would help you feel more involved? We welcome suggestions about accessible gathering places, activities and ways to share your ideas.





The land and water remain part of our vision as community conversations continue.

Help shape our Centre

Community voices guide the work

Elders, Knowledge Keepers, youth, families and community members all have a part in shaping this work. The Governance Circle guides major decisions, and the Working Collaborative Circle helps organize the work through committees and volunteers.

Share your ideas about cultural activities, learning spaces, outdoor gathering areas and programs that would support our community.

More hands to help build our Centre

We welcome community members who can offer time, skills or a willingness to learn. Ways to help include:

• Community engagement and helping organize gatherings.

• Marketing, social media and sharing project updates.

• Records and archives, including computer and email skills.

• Nonprofit development and reviewing draft bylaws.

Calling on community artists

We are looking for an original, hand drawn logo that reflects the ICC and our community. We welcome drawings created by people rather than AI-generated submissions. We also need a volunteer to help coordinate the logo callout and submissions. Contact us for current submission details.

Thank you to everyone contributing guidance, time and care. Your involvement helps carry this work forward.

Stay connected

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