



## Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary - est. 2004

Thursday February 15, 2024

**For Public Release**

Date: 2024-05-24  
Dept: Community Services

To Kim Mustard, M.A  
Team Lead, Strategy & Service Delivery Partners  
Major Partners Division, Partnerships Business Unit, The City of Calgary  
Calgary City Hall, 800 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, AB T2G 5E6

Fr Shane Gauthier, M. ED  
Chief Executive Officer

### **Re: Support for Renaming Fort Calgary**

Dear Kim Mustard,

The Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary (AFCC) is a non-profit organization with a mandate to provide social, cultural, education and employment services to the Indigenous peoples within the Calgary Metropolitan area. AFCC plays a regular and significant role in the daily lives of our members in many ways: providing care for our children, our elderly, our in need and our homeless; enabling access to cultural and spiritual care; offering referrals for suitable housing, food, clothing, pursuit of education, skill development and training; and building a resourceful Indigenous community.

AFCC and Fort Calgary are currently developing a memorandum of understanding and we look forward to working together on initiatives that celebrate the land and the story of it's peoples.

AFCC endorses the proposal to rename Fort Calgary to "The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland." The land at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers has been a gathering place for Indigenous peoples long before the establishment of Fort Calgary. By adopting the name "The Confluence," Fort Calgary acknowledges and pays tribute to those who have inhabited this land for generations, and creates greater opportunity to celebrate the resilience, traditions, and contributions of Indigenous peoples. Furthermore, this name change aligns with the broader movement of recognizing historical injustices. It is a meaningful gesture that contributes to the process of reconciliation, acknowledging the impact of colonial history while promoting a more inclusive and respectful future.

In Friendship,

Shane Gauthier, CEO  
[sgauthier@afccalgary.org](mailto:sgauthier@afccalgary.org)



**February 14, 2024**

Fort Calgary - Letter of Support

Kim Mustard, M.A  
Team Lead, Strategy & Service Delivery Partners  
Major Partners Division, Partnerships Business Unit, The City of Calgary  
Calgary City Hall, 800 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, AB T2G 5E6

Dear Kim Mustard,

Our Mission at Calgary Land Management Corporation (CMLC) is to strengthen connections between people and the places they share. Our passionate approach to elevating the urban experience infuses communities with new energy and the confidence to build, grow and believe. We are proud to be part of Fort Calgary's journey as they work to revitalize and animate the 40 acres of urban land that they steward.

CMLC supports the proposed initiative to rename Fort Calgary to "The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland" and expand its historical narrative to encompass a broader and more inclusive representation of the diverse histories of the land. This change is not only timely but also aligns with the values of unity, diversity, and respect for the rich history that has shaped our city.

Fort Calgary has long been a symbol of our city's history, and the proposed name change to "The Confluence" reflects a more encompassing and forward-thinking approach to storytelling. The confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers is a pivotal geographical feature that has shaped the region. This land holds immense historical and cultural significance for the Indigenous peoples and for the various communities that have contributed to the tapestry of our city. Expanding the narrative beyond the traditional focus on the North West Mounted Police to include the diverse histories of the land is a commendable step towards acknowledging and honoring the voices and stories that have often been marginalized or overlooked. By recognizing and incorporating the experiences of Indigenous peoples, immigrants, and other communities, "The Confluence" can become a more inclusive and representative cultural institution that resonates with the broader spectrum of our community.

CMLC recognizes the potential this proposal holds to create a more inclusive and culturally rich destination. We believe "The Confluence" has the power to inspire pride and connection among residents, as well as attract visitors who seek to explore and understand the multifaceted history of Calgary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Coles', followed by a period.

Kelly Coles  
VP Building & Infrastructure, CMLC

**Calgary Municipal  
Land Corporation**  
430 - 8 Avenue SE  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2G 0L7

**O:** 403.718.0300  
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**calgarymlc.ca**



**Calgary**

Terry Wong, Ward 7 Councillor

February 16, 2024

Kim Mustard, M.A  
Team Lead, Strategy & Service Delivery Partners  
Major Partners Division, Partnerships Business Unit, The City of Calgary  
Calgary City Hall, 800 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, AB T2G 5E6

Dear Kim Mustard,

**Re: Letter of Support for Renaming a Fort Calgary**

As Councillor of Ward 7, I am pleased to support the proposed initiative to rename Fort Calgary to "The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland" and expand its historical narrative to encompass a more inclusive representation of the diverse histories of the land. This change is timely and aligns with the values of unity, diversity, and respect for the rich history that has shaped our city.

In the last year, I have been impressed with Fort Calgary's commitment to activating its land as a cultural and event destination within Ward 7. As the organization seeks to expand their focus to include a more diverse history, I am confident that more community members will find a connection at the confluence.

Fort Calgary has long been a symbol of our city's complex stories, and the proposed name change to "The Confluence" reflects a more encompassing and forward-thinking approach to storytelling. The confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers is a pivotal geographical feature that has shaped the region. This land holds immense historical and cultural significance for the Indigenous peoples and the various communities that have contributed to the tapestry of our city.

Expanding the narrative beyond the traditional focus on the Northwest Mounted Police to include the diverse histories of the land is a commendable step towards acknowledging and honouring the voices and stories that have often been marginalized or overlooked. By recognizing and incorporating the experiences of Indigenous peoples, immigrants, and other communities, "The Confluence" can become a more inclusive and representative cultural institution that resonates with the broader spectrum of our community.

I urge my colleagues at The City of Calgary to consider this proposal, recognizing the potential to create a more inclusive and culturally rich destination that reflects the true diversity of our city. I believe that "The Confluence" has the power to inspire pride and connection among residents and attract visitors who seek to explore and understand the multifaceted history of Calgary.

Sincerely,



Terry Wong (He/Him/His)  
Ward 7 City Council  
The City of Calgary



**Calgary**

Office of the Councillors

COUNCILLOR GIAN-CARLO CARRA

Kim Mustard, M.A  
Team Lead, Strategy & Service Delivery Partners  
Major Partners Division, Partnerships Business Unit, The City of Calgary  
Calgary City Hall, 800 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, AB T2G 5E6

February 20, 2024

**RE: Support for Renaming a Fort Calgary**

Dear Kim Mustard,

In the last year, Fort Calgary has demonstrated an active commitment to activating their land as a cultural and event destination within Ward 9. As the organization seeks to expand their focus to include a more diverse history, I am confident that more community members will find connection at the confluence.

I strongly support the proposed initiative to rename Fort Calgary to "The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland" and expand its historical narrative to encompass a broader and more inclusive representation of the diverse histories of the land. This change is not only timely but also aligns with the values of unity, diversity, and respect for the rich history that has shaped our city.

Fort Calgary has long been a symbol of our city's complex stories, and the proposed name change to "The Confluence" reflects a more encompassing and forward-thinking approach to storytelling. The confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers is a pivotal geographical feature that has shaped the region. This land holds immense historical and cultural significance for the Indigenous peoples and for the various communities that have contributed to the tapestry of our city.

Expanding the narrative beyond the traditional focus on the North West Mounted Police to include the diverse histories of the land is a commendable step towards acknowledging and honoring the voices and stories that have often been marginalized or overlooked. By recognizing and incorporating the experiences of Indigenous peoples, immigrants, and other communities, "The Confluence" can become a more inclusive and representative cultural institution that resonates with the broader spectrum of our community.

I urge my colleagues at The City of Calgary to consider this proposal, recognizing the potential it holds to create a more inclusive and culturally rich destination that reflects the true diversity of our city. I believe that "The Confluence" has the power to inspire pride and connection among residents, as well as attract visitors who seek to explore and understand the multifaceted history of Calgary.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "GIAN-CARLO" followed by a stylized flourish.

GIAN-CARLO CARRA  
COUNCILLOR, WARD 9

[EAWARD9@CALGARY.CA](mailto:EAWARD9@CALGARY.CA)

403-268-2477



February 15, 2024

Major Partners Division, Partnerships Business Unit  
The City of Calgary  
Calgary City Hall, 800 Macleod Trail SE  
Calgary AB T2G 5E6

**Attn: Kim Mustard, M.A.**  
**Team Lead, Strategy & Service Delivery Partners**

Dear Kim,

**Subject: Support for Renaming at Fort Calgary**

Since joining the Board of Directors of Fort Calgary Preservation Society in 2019, I have been very privileged to have had the opportunity, together with many others, to invest considerable time, work, good will, and curiosity toward understanding better the meaning and future of this important Calgary institution. Benefitting from such contributions, today Fort Calgary is shifting gears and meaningfully changing directions. As the evolving narrative of Fort Calgary now broadens toward being authentically representative and toward presenting diverse and inclusive histories of these lands, the wisdom of reconsidering the name by which these special civic lands are known, “Fort Calgary”, has become increasingly clear.

Today the Board of Directors of the Fort Calgary Preservation Society strongly supports the proposal to rename the Fort Calgary lands to become instead, “The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland”. The proposed name is both natural and familiar since the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers is a prominent geographical feature that has shaped the region and our City. But more than this, the confluence lands also hold considerable historical and cultural significance for many Indigenous peoples and also for various other communities and individuals, too, whose collective lived experience has contributed to the complex tapestry that we today call the The City of Calgary. The proposed name change also frees us from constraints of thought or attitude that sometimes exist when the lands are spoken of exclusively with a short-hand reference to the name of a long-demolished North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) Fort that operated at the site from 1875-1914. The stories of that Fort and the NWMP are obviously an important part of the history of the lands, but there are other important stories to be told, too. Choosing the right name liberates story-telling and lets history be an open and welcoming book.

Expanding the narrative of the lands, via name change, and letting go of the traditional or dominant NWMP focus, can be an important step toward acknowledging and honouring voices and stories that have been marginalized or overlooked. By recognizing, welcoming, and incorporating the experiences of Indigenous peoples, immigrants, and other communities and

750 – 9 Avenue SE, Calgary AB T2G 5E1

stakeholders, “The Confluence” can aspire toward being a truly inclusive and representative cultural institution, the name of which will resonate with a broad cross-section of the community.

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of this renaming proposal. I genuinely believe that renaming the lands is a necessary step, and that the exercise of renaming presents all of us with a special opportunity. This can be a time of real sea change.

In closing, and as materials compiled in support of the renaming proposal will demonstrate, the recommended name, “The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland”, emerged after considerable engagement and discussion about the best possible path forward. Personally, since the very first time I heard the proposed name, I have heard nothing but positive reactions. I believe that “The Confluence”, as a name, has the power to inspire pride, to foster connection among residents, and to attract visitors who will seek to explore and understand the multifaceted history of Calgary.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**FORT CALGARY PRESERVATION SOCIETY**



Brian Beck  
Chair, Board of Directors  
PH 403.554.6448  
[brianbeck@glbh.com](mailto:brianbeck@glbh.com)



February 26, 2024

Kim Mustard, M.A.  
Team Lead, Strategy & Service Delivery Partners  
Major Partners Division, Partnerships Business Unit  
The City of Calgary  
Calgary City Hall  
800 Macleod Trail SE  
Calgary, AB T2G 5E6

**Re: Support for Renaming Fort Calgary**

Dear Kim Mustard,

The Calgary Stampede is a gathering place that hosts, educates, and entertains visitors from around the world. As a longstanding and major contributor to the Calgary tourism sector, we understand the desire for meaningful travel experiences that expand perspectives and connect people to the histories that make up a destination. As Fort Calgary furthers their journey to become a stronger tourist attraction, a name change seems only natural.

The Calgary Stampede strongly supports the proposal to rename Fort Calgary "The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland" and expand its historical narrative to encompass a broader and more inclusive representation of the diverse histories of the land.

Fort Calgary has long been a symbol of our city's complex stories, and the proposed name change to "The Confluence" reflects a more encompassing and forward-thinking approach to storytelling. The confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers is a pivotal geographical feature that has shaped the region. This land holds immense historical and cultural significance for the Indigenous peoples and for the various communities that have contributed to the tapestry of our city.

Expanding the narrative beyond the traditional focus on the North West Mounted Police to include the diverse histories of the land is a commendable step towards acknowledging and honoring the voices and stories that have often been marginalized or overlooked. By recognizing and incorporating the experiences of Indigenous peoples, immigrants, and other communities, "The Confluence" can become a more inclusive and representative cultural institution that resonates with the broader spectrum of our local and global communities.

We believe that "The Confluence" has the power to inspire pride and connection among residents as well as to attract visitors who seek to explore and understand the multifaceted history of Calgary. As such, we hope that City Council will provide full consideration to this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Cowley', written over a stylized graphic element that resembles a star or a signature flourish.

Joel Cowley  
Chief Executive Officer

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Limited

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**Monday, Feb. 12**

Kim Mustard, M.A  
Team Lead, Strategy & Service Delivery Partners  
Major Partners Division, Partnerships Business Unit, The City of Calgary  
Calgary City Hall, 800 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, AB T2G 5E6

Re: Support for Renaming a Fort Calgary

Dear Kim Mustard,

As Tourism Calgary continues to activate the Destination Strategy and drive a sustainable visitor economy in our city, we are pleased to see the aligned work that Fort Calgary is doing to contribute to a healthy and green city and provide meaningful experiences to visitors.

Tourism Calgary strongly supports the proposed initiative to rename Fort Calgary to "The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland" and expand its historical narrative to encompass a broader and more inclusive representation of the diverse histories of the land. This change is very timely as the upcoming civic brand work embraces the ideas of confluence, diversity, and belonging but this change also aligns with the values of unity and respect for the rich history that has shaped our city.

Fort Calgary has long been a symbol of our city's complex stories, and the proposed name change to "The Confluence" reflects a more forward-thinking approach to our city's storytelling. The confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers is a pivotal geographical feature that has shaped the region. This land holds immense historical and cultural significance for the Indigenous peoples and for the various communities that have contributed to the tapestry of our city.

Expanding the narrative beyond the traditional focus on the North West Mounted Police to include the diverse histories of the land is a commendable step towards acknowledging and honoring the voices and stories that have often been marginalized or overlooked. By recognizing and incorporating the experiences of Indigenous peoples, immigrants, and other communities, "The Confluence" can become a more inclusive and representative cultural institution that resonates with the broader spectrum of our community.

Tourism Calgary urges The City of Calgary to give careful consideration to this proposal, recognizing the potential it holds to create a more inclusive and culturally rich destination. I believe "The Confluence" has the power to inspire pride and connection among residents, as well as attract and educate visitors who seek to explore and understand the multifaceted history of Calgary.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Hessel".

Jeff Hessel  
Senior Vice President, Marketing, Tourism Calgary

**20 February 2024**  
**From: Troy Patenaude**

Re: Support for Renaming a Fort Calgary

Kim Mustard, M.A  
Team Lead, Strategy & Service Delivery Partners  
Major Partners Division, Partnerships Business Unit, The City of Calgary  
Calgary City Hall, 800 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, AB T2G 5E6

Dear Kim Mustard,

I began my journey with Fort Calgary in 2015 and while I left my full-time role there in 2022, I continue to work with the team as an advisor and Indigenous community liaison to further their goals to share truthful stories rooted in the lands at Fort Calgary.

In the last nine years, I have led and been involved with countless initiatives that have sought to amplify the stories of Indigenous people and impart an understanding of contemporary Indigenous interactions to the community. In 2015, I assembled the Fort Calgary Indigenous Advisory Council comprised of representatives from the Treaty 7 Nations and the Métis Nation of Alberta, with whom Fort Calgary still works.

I am deeply invested in Fort Calgary's move to expand the narrative beyond the traditional focus on the North West Mounted Police to include the diverse histories of the land. I would like to express my support for the proposal to rename Fort Calgary to "The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland." This geographical location has been a central gathering place for Indigenous peoples for centuries, long before the establishment of Fort Calgary. By adopting the name "The Confluence," Fort Calgary acknowledges and pays tribute to those who have inhabited this land since time immemorial, and creates greater opportunity to celebrate the resilience, traditions, and contributions of Indigenous peoples of the area.

Furthermore, this name change aligns with the broader movement of recognizing and rectifying historical injustices. It is a meaningful gesture that contributes to the process of reconciliation, acknowledging the impact of colonial history while promoting a more inclusive and respectful future.

Thank you for considering the importance of this matter. I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the name "The Confluence" will have on Fort Calgary and the broader community.

Sincerely,



Dr. Troy Patenaude, PhD

Cross River Education & Retreat Centre  
[troy@crossriver.ca](mailto:troy@crossriver.ca)