



# CALGARY URBAN ABORIGINAL INITIATIVE (CUAI)

2014

*Reporting back to the community*

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# CUAI 15 YEAR REPORT BACK TO COMMUNITY

Welcome to the CUIAI 15 year reporting back document...

The Calgary Urban Aboriginal Initiative (CUAI) grew out of work that was initiated in 1999 with ***“Removing Barriers: A Listening Circle”***, which endeavored to identify solutions to barriers that face Aboriginal Calgarians. CUIAI is a partnership initiative that was developed in order to facilitate forums where the recommendations from ***“Removing Barriers: A Listening Circle”*** might begin to be implemented.

CUAI has grown over the last 15 years and is grateful for the continued support. While CUIAI is still relatively young, its mandate and reach have continued to grow. CUIAI has made progress in bringing together the Aboriginal community, stakeholders, and all levels of government to provide a home for ongoing discussion, coordination, and informed action in support of Calgary urban Aboriginal issues and initiatives.

Eight Domain groups in the areas of Education, Employment, Health, Housing, Human rights, Justice, Services, and Funding are still the heart of CUIAI. All of the Domains continue to be operational and work to continue making important gains in their areas of influence. The Collaborative Granting Process (CGP) developed by CUIAI in partnership with the Government of Canada’s Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) in 2002 has just completed its 12<sup>th</sup> funding cycle and has built a successful track record of funding projects. These projects address high-priority needs and service gaps as identified by the Aboriginal community through leveraging dollars and creating funding partnerships.

Perhaps you participated in ***“Removing Barriers: A Listening Circle”*** or one of CUIAI’s *report back* events or perhaps you sit on a CUIAI Domain group. Whatever your interest might be in CUIAI, the following pages are intended to provide you with an overview.

I would like to thank everyone whose time and energy have been instrumental in helping CUIAI to thrive and grow. The potential of what we are able to achieve through CUIAI is a function of how well we are able to engage a broad range of people in working together to improve the lives of Aboriginal Calgarians. We could not achieve this without the interest and support of all of our many committed participants and funders.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you.

***Christy Morgan***

Executive Director

## ***CUAI History***

The Calgary Urban Aboriginal Initiative (CUAI) grew out of ***“Removing Barriers: A Listening Circle”***, a multi-phase, qualitative, community-based research initiative that took place in Calgary in 1999. The first phase of ***“Removing Barriers: A Listening Circle”*** engaged Aboriginal Calgarians in identifying barriers to service and systems access in Calgary. Subsequent phases focused on bringing together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community members and stakeholders in order to vision solutions to existing barriers. A final consultation report summarizing the recommendations from ***“Removing Barriers: A Listening Circle”*** is available on the CUAI website ([www.cuai.ca](http://www.cuai.ca)).

CUAI is a partnership initiative that aims to support and enhance work across and between eight Domain groups by engaging broad bases of stakeholders in order to affect real and sustainable advances for urban Aboriginal Calgarians.

CUAI is not a service delivery agency, a government department, a funding body, or a not-for-profit organization. CUAI is a true collaborative, and its potential is a function of the degree to which it engages community members, stakeholders and government around common goals.

### **Listening Circle → CUAI**

CUAI aims to ensure that urban Aboriginal issues are addressed in a manner that is reflective and supportive of the unique context and culture of Calgary’s Aboriginal citizens. Eight Domains, or areas of interest, evolved out of the consultations that took place through “Removing Barriers: A Listening Circle”, and have become the central focus of work being undertaken by CUAI. These Domains are:

- Education
- Employment
- Health
- Housing
- Human Rights
- Justice
- Services
- Funders

### ***CUAI’s Mission***

**“To provide a home for ongoing discussion, coordination, and informed action in support of Calgary urban Aboriginal issues and initiatives”**

## *CUAI Structure*

### **CUAI Domain Groups**

- Exist in order to identify issues and act on recommendations as identified through consultation with the community.
- Empowered with a mandate to engage the community in identifying issues and developing and implementing recommended action plans.
- Domain membership is based on the terms of reference of each CUIAI Domain group, and each Domain group selects a representative to the CUIAI Committee.

### **The CUIAI Project Team**

- The CUIAI Project Team provides administrative and operational support to all aspects of the Calgary Urban Aboriginal Initiative.
- The Project Team consists of a Director, Community Liaisons, and other staff as required.



### **The CUIAI Committee**

- The CUIAI Committee is the coordinating sector of the Calgary Urban Aboriginal Initiative.
- It supports activities across Domain groups and provides guidance and support to the Project Team.
- In addition to stakeholders, community members, and an Elder, all Domain groups are represented on the CUIAI Committee to ensure active and effective participation from, and communication between, all involved.

## *Domain Groups*

The eight Domain groups are the heart of CUIAI. It is through these groups that CUIAI maintains its connection with the Aboriginal community, and engages the participation of experts in areas of critical concern for Aboriginal Calgarians. Domain groups are comprised of community members, agency staff, industry experts, along with a variety of additional stakeholders. Domain group participation is free and open to all, with the exception of the Funders Domain which restricts membership to funders with an interest in urban Aboriginal program support.

### **Employment Domain**

*“Effectively connecting Aboriginal people with successful employment outcomes: informing, educating & working with stakeholders to ensure that all Aboriginal people secure and retain meaningful employment”*

#### VISION

A work environment that is equitable and inclusive of Aboriginal people

#### MISSION

We provide a venue to address issues that Aboriginal people in Calgary face in seeking and maintaining employment, and to develop solutions with well- defined outcomes

#### STATEMENT of NEED

To increase the overall level of participation of Aboriginal people in Calgary’s urban workforce to be more proportional to the non-Aboriginal population

#### PRIORITIES

- Priority 1: Provide opportunities for community collaborations and partnerships through networking and presentations.
- Priority 2: Focus on cross cultural understanding and issues pertaining to hiring and retention of all Aboriginal people.
- Priority 3: Support the continuation and/or development of pre-employment or employment programs and services that focus on successful employment outcomes via mentorship, practicum placements, internships etc.

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## FIVE YEAR OUTCOMES (2009- 2014)

- Youth and Employers connection event at Olympic Volunteer Centre
- Career connections event in partnership with the Business Link Centre and HRSDC
- “Guiding Our Future Leaders” event – Aboriginal mentorship and students
- CUIA Entrepreneurship Circle: First Step: A four part series on self employment
- “The Big Idea” – A partnership with the Dreamcatcher Foundation
- Cultural Series - Hiring and Retention of Aboriginal people” – A three part series
- CUIA Resource and Hiring Fair in partnership with the CUIA Services Domain
- Strategic Planning “Future Directions” with Dr. Marie Delorme
- Development and launch of the “Influence Mentorship Program”
- Many other networking events for employers and students.

## **Education Domain**

The CUIA Education Domain was created in 2002 and is made up of a group of committed individuals, representing urban Aboriginal educational interests from early childhood to adult.

### MISSION

To create, support and advocate for positive change to urban Aboriginal education by striving to provide awareness and a sense of belonging, as well as identifying opportunities to effect change in environmental and policy systems.



## FIVE YEAR OUTCOMES (2009-2014)

- Partnered with the Employment domain to host “Guiding Our Future Leaders”. This highlighted opportunities around Aboriginal specific mentorship and benefits of having inclusive and culturally appropriate models are needed
- Education Survey to gathering information on how existing education supports and/or programs are working in Calgary and hosted a community report back event to share the results
- “Program Registration Day” at Piitoayis School, including children and youth program booths
- Financial Literacy event with post secondary students and community



# CUAI 15 YEAR REPORT BACK TO COMMUNITY

- Event to highlight storytelling as an Aboriginal educational tool through theatrical play
- Collaborated with the Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth (USAY) on their annual Backpack Give Away and incorporated a new aspect to the event around Aboriginal Program Registration for students
- In collaboration with Momentum, hosted a Financial and Life wellness session at Mount Royal University
- Partnered with the Bridges Social Development to co-host the “Unveiling Youth Potential” event
- Hosted their first Learning Successes event at the Boys and Girls Club in Calgary. The purpose of this event was to celebrate our family’s daily successes
- CUI Education Domain and the CUI Youth group partnered to organize and feature a forum theatre performance around Intergenerational Trauma

## PRIORITIES for 2014 (reviewed annually)

The following priorities that the Education Domain deems essential to assist Aboriginals in Calgary become successful learners. By supporting family and community involvement in Aboriginal education the benefits are reciprocal. The Education Domain will endeavor to work with other domains sectors to ensure this priority is being met.

### 1) Family and Community Involvement

- Support the development of literacy and numeric programs for Aboriginal students
- Encourage Aboriginal Parent Outreach/Support Programs
- Encourage the Whole Aboriginal Community to be Active in education.

### 2) Aboriginal Youth Capacity (via partnership with the CUI Employment Domain Mentorship Sub-committee)

- Support Aboriginal Youth Leadership/Peer Role Model Programs or Aboriginal Mentoring Programs
- Support Aboriginal Youth Employment and Career Development Programs
- Encourage community-wide Programming for Aboriginal Youth through partnerships.





## Funders Domain

This Domain operates differently from the other Domains, as it does not represent a service-based sector. Rather, the Funders Domain aims to take steps to streamline the process of funding Aboriginal programs and services and to make it more accessible to the community and related agencies. This Domain is comprised solely of representatives from funding entities that have an interest in funding Aboriginal programs and services.

### FIVE YEAR OUTCOMES (2009- 2014)

- CUI Collaborative Granting Process (CGP) cycles 8-12 implementation, participation and completion (i.e. participated in cycle 8 launch event, funders meetings and evaluation process).
- Funders able to provide funding for Aboriginal Awareness Week events in Calgary
- evaluation
- On February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – a morning learning session was hosted at the Alberta Trade Centre for the community and funders to go through a virtual tour of the *Metasoft* service
- On June 30, 2011 – Funders “Un-fumbling Funding” event at the Kahanoff Centre. A Cracker barrel Sessions to allow funders with timelines outside of the CGP to present upcoming mandates and information on what they fund to the community



## **Health Domain**

“Community coming together in the spirit of trust and respect to improve health by sharing knowledge and influencing change in self, community and policy”

### VISION

“A socially, healthy and vibrant Aboriginal community emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually”

### MISSION

“Community coming together in the spirit of trust and respect to improve health by sharing knowledge and influencing change in self, community and policy”

### PRIORITIES

The Health Domain was created in 2005 with the involvement of community members, local organizations and interested parties. Since then the Health Domain’s membership has maintained an open inclusive involvement to all community members, agencies, and organizations. The Health Domain has developed and followed four guiding principles that include collaboration and partnership based on equality, transparent and open practices, respect Aboriginal diversity, and respect the gifts and strengths of the members.

These priorities are the basis for the Health Domain’s evolving priorities and goals. These priorities and goals look at: 1) identifying community issues and gaps, 2) create learning and networking opportunities, 3) promote health education for best practices in Aboriginal Health, support inclusive holistic and culturally appropriate approach to wellness, 4) support Aboriginal spirituality as a priority, identify collaborations and cross sharing in the health sector, and 5) promote long term support holistic healthcare services for Aboriginal youth.

### FIVE YEAR OUTCOMES (2009-2014)

- 2009 – Aboriginal Homelessness Awareness event
- 2010 – Spirituality event at the Glenbow Museum
- 2011 – Non-Insured Health benefits session with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)
- 2011 - FASD learning event featuring various keynote speakers (medical perspective, personal and family experiences)
- 2012 - Lunch and learn session in response to tainted Ecstasy and Calgary deaths. Partnered with Calgary Police Service and Sunrise Native Addiction Services

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- 2012 - Health agency bus tour for frontline workers with visits to five Calgary agencies
- 2012 - Suicide Awareness and Prevention workshop with the Centre for Suicide Prevention.
- 2013 - “Laughter as Medicine” session at the Alberta Children’s Hospital on the way biological effects of humor & Aboriginal culture and humor.
- 2013 - With the Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth (USAY) and the CUIAI Education and Health Domains co-hosted the annual USAY back pack give away
- 2013 - CUIAI Aboriginal wellness calendar funds donated to the Calgary Wellness Walk Committee
- 2014 - “Feeding your Spirit” self care event to target and engage health workers

## Housing Domain

### VISION

Our people enjoy life in our homes

### MISSION

Create solutions to Aboriginal Homelessness

### OPERATIONAL MISSION STATEMENT:

To seek housing solutions for Aboriginal peoples in Calgary through research, information sharing, outreach, and capacity building initiatives.

### STATEMENT OF NEED

To empower urban Aboriginal peoples in Calgary through engagement, leadership and sharing, by creating housing and homelessness solutions.

### PRIORITIES:

- 1) To develop leadership and actively advocate with a strong voice on urban Aboriginal housing and homelessness;
- 2) To develop a strategy to access and increase funding for Aboriginal homelessness
- 3) To promote, support and implement the five (5) year Aboriginal Plan to end Homelessness.

### FIVE YEAR OUTCOMES (2009-2014):

- Develop and Implement the Aboriginal Plan to End Homelessness
- Develop and Implement the Strategy for ASCHH
- Continue to collaborate with CUIAI on activities and events



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## Human Rights Domain

### VISION:

The CUIAI Human Right Domain is to promote and advocate for equal participation, recognition and respect for Aboriginal People in Calgary; free from stereotypes, while honoring our diverse cultures, values and traditions.

### MISSION:

The CUIAI Human Rights Domain shall advocate for the acknowledgement, inclusion and protection of the Human Rights of the Aboriginal Peoples of Calgary; respecting their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being.



### PURPOSE:

The purpose of the CUIAI Human Rights Domain is to advocate, promote, and build support, understanding and empowerment of urban Aboriginal Peoples within Calgary, with regards to Human Rights issues.

### PRIORITY:

To provide opportunities for the Aboriginal community to become more educated and informed on resources available, complaint processes for Human Rights complaints and violations, and to gain a better understanding about the Human Rights Act (both Federally and Provincially).

### ACTION:

To work closely with existing entities that provides services and/or resources to the community on Human Rights to provide information workshops, educational seminars and learning opportunities for the Aboriginal community.

### FIVE YEAR OUTCOMES (2009-2014)

- 2009 - “Do you know your Rights” open house
- 2010 - 2012 – “Voices” video lunch and learn sessions
- 2011 – Interactive theatre session hosted with the Alberta Human Rights Commission, the Residential School Survivor program and Antyx Theatre Group
- 2011 –Event featuring “Target Zone” exercise, an “Identity and personal shield” exercise facilitated by the Native Counselling Services of Alberta (NCSA), the NCSA “Voices” video and a Potluck Feast

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- 2012 – With Native Counselling Services of Alberta (NCSA) hosted an event to train attendees to use of the ‘Project of Heart’ kits from the International Day of Healing
- 2012 – “Missing” event at Mount Royal University to bring awareness and understanding around issues pertaining to “missing” Aboriginal people in Canada (i.e. murdered, missing, children of the residential school era), ceremony was included and numerous speakers featured
- 2012 – Partnership with Aspen, Fort Calgary and the Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary to co-hosted an event in recognition of the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the “Apology” by the Government of Canada for the Residential School Era
- 2012 - “Past, Present and Future” session on the CUI Human Rights Domain
- 2013 – United Nations International Day to end racism and discrimination recognition event at the BMO Centre. Sharing circles were hosted; a presentation by the Calgary Police Services Hate Crimes Division and a presentation on the Treaty 7 Education Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) followed by a Round Dance
- 2013 – “Re-claiming our spirit” event hosted in partnership with the CUI Justice and Service Domains at Mount Royal University
- 2013 - Partnership with a University of Calgary Indigenous Studies class and Calgary Police Services to co-host an event featuring authors and contributors of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Healing Foundation publication “Speaking my Truth” to coincide with the TRC Regional Hearings in Calgary
- 2014 - Partnership with the Aboriginal Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness (ASCHH) to co-host an event featuring Dr. Yale Belanger from the University of Lethbridge and the Alberta Human Rights Commission office

## Justice Domain

### VISION

The Justice Domain aims to establish safer communities for Calgary’s Aboriginal population through reducing the percentage of Aboriginal people in the justice system, developing a better understanding and trust within the system, and by making sentencing practices more culturally sensitive.



### PRIORITIES

While the Justice Domain priorities has shifted over the last five years to reflect community priorities, the main focus of work has always been around support healthy and positive transitions and supports within the Justice sector and systems. The current priorities for 2014-2015 are: 1) support community based collaborative approach to address existing and



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emerging issues related to Urban Aboriginal people in the Justice system or at risk of becoming involved with the system and 2) creating community awareness and cultural education amongst all Justice Stakeholders.

## **FIVE YEAR OUTCOMES (2009- 2014)**

- 2009 to 2012 –Information Fair in collaboration with the Calgary Young Offenders Centre (CYOC). The event was focused on engaging youth in the centre on learning more about youth services and organizations in the city of Calgary
- 2010 - CUIA/Justice Domain participated in the Calgary Corrections Week Open House
- 2010 – Information session on the the Safe Communities Innovation Fund (SCIF) on their upcoming call for proposals. Co-hosted by CUIA and SCIF
- 2011 - Partnered with the Calgary Young Offenders Centre (CYOC) to host “Blue Print for Life” week event
- 2011 – Information session on existing justice programs, the barriers that Aboriginal youth face and how to assist successful reintegration
- 2011 - Partnered with Correction Services Canada (CSC) to host two community information and engagement sessions around “Offender Re-integration”
- 2012 – Panel event at Mount Royal on the new C-10 Omnibus Bill and the Safe Streets and Communities Act
- 2012 - Hosted a community gaps analysis session with invited service providers to speak to their work, what gaps in service delivery they identified in the Justice sector and how can we address them
- 2013 - Partnered with the CUIA Services and Human Rights Domains to co-host the “Reclaiming our spirit” event at Mount Royal University
- 2013 – “Youth Prevention and Early Intervention: Closing the Gap of Understanding” event at Mount Royal University
- 2014 - Partnered with Correction Services Canada (CSC) to host the “Bridging the Gap” event on re-integration supports and gaps



“CUAI has pioneered traditional process and has acted as an info gatherer” – 15 year event attendee, 2014.

## Services Domain

### **MISSION**

The CUI Services Domain is accountable to provide opportunities for the Aboriginal community and identified stakeholders, and to work in collaboration to address the needs of our people in Calgary. We will advocate and communicate on behalf of the Aboriginal community as required.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

- We will foster an environment in which open and honest communication can take place.
- We will operate in a transparent and sharing manner.
- We will respect and practice the CUI Guiding Principles.
- We will work in a collaborative manner.
- We will focus on what will best benefit Calgary's urban Aboriginal families and community.
- We will operate with a clear code of ethics.
- We will work on sustainable, long-term projects.
- We will foster an environment in which the Aboriginal voice is welcome.

Guided by the above principals, the CUI Services Domain has been actively providing educational and awareness opportunities that focus on:

- early child care
- transitional supports
- lateral violence
- Intergenerational trauma awareness
- Culture in the workplace

Most recently, the Services Domain has been actively pursuing supporting Aboriginal serving agencies and programs by offering a yearly resource fair to all Calgarians that highlight the programs and resources available to the Aboriginal demographic of Calgary. We recognize the increase in population of Aboriginal people moving to Calgary. This coupled with the high attendance rates of Aboriginal children in foster care are two examples of why education on Aboriginal specific supports is a crucial piece of awareness needed by professionals, foster parents and families who are new to the city.

Considering the need for Aboriginal specific supports, the Services Domain has been successful in hosting three elders' summits that foster the incorporation of traditional knowledge, elder access and Indigenous practice in the workplace.



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Our members are people working directly and indirectly with the Aboriginal population of Calgary so they bring a level of knowledge and more importantly, passion to every activity, workshop and educational session offered to community.

We will continue to be inclusive of all Aboriginal people of Calgary while we work from a position of collaborative, equal partnership with other Domains and stakeholders that are working towards the positive promotion and opportunities of growth for Aboriginal people living and moving to the urban Centre of Calgary.

## CUAI Youth Group

In 2012, CUIAI was approached by a few youth who wanted to work with CUIAI to form a CUIAI Youth Group. Membership of the CUIAI Youth group has grown in size and they have developed Terms of Reference and been able to participate in a number of initiatives.



### VISION

Empowering urban Aboriginal youth in Calgary to become proactive, informed and connected.

### MISSION

To bridge existing Aboriginal youth programs and events in Calgary with our peer community.

### PURPOSE

To mobilize urban Aboriginal youth to participate in existing Aboriginal youth programs in Calgary.

### OUTCOMES (2012-2014)

- Participated at review committee for 2013 Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth (CCAY) call for proposals in Calgary
- Attended First Aid Certification
- Various fun outings (i.e. paint ball, Calgary Flames games, dinner)
- Co-hosted an forum theatre on Intergenerational Trauma from a youth perspective at Mount Royal University
- Partnered with the other 8 CUIAI Domains to host a Round Dance in December 2013.
- Hosted Color Spectrums workshop in January 2014.
- Presented at youth groups in Calgary.

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As a Youth committee, we get the opportunity to evolve into the domains as interest grows and develops when volunteering for the domains in which we support with networking and sharing information of programs for youth to be active in. We volunteer and collaborate with the domains that involve Youth initiatives for education, health, justice and human rights. Our vision is to build and recover gaps that prevent us youth from seeing our potential to be active in our dreams and goals while living in the urban lifestyle and build the community of youth. To bring us together to share our experiences and support one another to achieve their potential and to feel safe in a community that is caring. As a committee we bring service providers to youth and projects that require youth capacity and events that will bring us together. As Aboriginal Youth we have the support of our community Elders and Organizations to assist us in balancing our lifestyle with cultural teachings in the urban lifestyle.

As Youth we have access to learn about our Aboriginal Culture and protocol as we continue to strive through mainstream society and sharing our knowledge with other Canadians. We welcome all people to join our committee to support our community of Youth that is the fastest growing demographic in Canada. We all come from different back grounds and reasons of why we choose to live in the city, but one thing remains the same for us all and that is that we want to belong to a community that is supportive and is progressive with main stream society to participate in and to learn about our Aboriginal culture while living in the urban lifestyle. CUI provides all of this for us to part take and to belong and share.

Moving forward we have been given the great responsibility and opportunity as a Youth Initiative to provide that link and access for urban Aboriginal youth living in the city. The Calgary Urban Aboriginal Initiative consists of 8 domains that help and support organizations with programs in the city of Calgary to build a safe, healthy, equality and prosperous community of Urban Aboriginal.

## *15 year event*

On June 24, 2014, the Calgary Urban Aboriginal Initiative (CUAI) hosted their 15 year celebration. The theme was reconciliation and featured four Listening Circles (Past, Present, Future and Youth) in honor and recognition of CUAI's beginnings.

Below is a brief summary of responses from the circles:

- Support Aboriginal community, support culture, how to prepare to reconcile, being able to help others
- Educating ourselves first and then helping others
- Making sure supports are in place for everyone
- Acknowledge that this will take time and that each person is individual
- It is about talking to each other and coming together to do this work
- Incorporation of traditional practices and processes for healing and moving forward
- This needs to be done for our future generations and youth
- Understanding the past and finding ways to walk forward
- CUAI – continue to collaborate
- Listen to the community, create safe spaces for people
- Discuss ways to combine resources
- Keep the conversations and work going
- Keep processes open to everyone
- Find ways to communicate all the good work happening
- Keep looking for ways to reach out to others
- Recognize that we ALL are CUAI and that we ALL are advocates for this work.



# CUAI 15 YEAR REPORT BACK TO COMMUNITY

## Top 3 areas on what reconciliation looked like for CUIAI 15 year celebration attendees

1. Acknowledgement
2. Forgiveness
3. Healing

## Top 3 recommendations – what is CUIAI’s role in reconciliation?

1. Bring more people in
2. More visible
3. More awareness

*“Speaking from experience moving into the city I didn’t feel like I belonged to any community and always felt like I was seen as different and someone who had the odds against her. I felt I was breaking barriers everyday and I felt like I was living in another country with different people that were not like me. After completing my Bachelors in 2010, I found myself with no community to support and be part of, until I did my research on the web and found CUIAI, hosting a financial literacy seminar that was free and provided lunch. I joined and found myself surrounded with other youth like myself, shy and closed in and being used to that feeling of being the only ones in our area of study. I think we thought the same of each other. This experience showed me that we needed to come together and support each other to break out of the feeling and take pride in our efforts in being who we are as youth living the urban lifestyle and overcoming the odds we are faced with”*

*~ CUIAI Youth Group member*

## *Acknowledgements*

The Calgary Urban Aboriginal Initiative (CUAI) would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make our June 25th, 2014 celebration event a great success. Their time, commitment, and personal contributions helped ensure a successful day. We also thank all current and past Domain members, CUAI Committee members, and supporters for their encouragement, participation and dedication who filled the last fifteen years with various learning opportunities, growth, and forward movement.

CUAI thanks Dr. Reg Crowshoe and Rose Crowshoe for their continued support of the Calgary Urban Aboriginal Initiative. The friendship, guidance and wisdom they have provided over the past fifteen years has been invaluable and we welcome continued opportunities to work together. Finally, we thank the funders who helped make this day possible. Their support and financial contributions assisted in offering a day filled with learning, networking and future planning for the Calgary Urban Aboriginal Initiative and the eight Domains: Education, Employment, Health, Funders, Housing, Human Rights, Justice, and Services and CUAI Youth Group.

We look forward to the next fifteen years and we anticipate that the findings in this report will not only assist the work of the eight CUAI Domains and Youth group, but others service providers, supporters and community members in their work with the urban Aboriginal population of Calgary.



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