

SUMMARY OF CURRENT SERVICES, PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN ST. ALBERT

1. City and City supported services, programs and initiatives:

Street Signs

The city has a number of street signs which included both English and Cree names.

Founders Walk

Signage and storyboards throughout the historic walk include Cree, French and English, recognizing the community's strong Métis and Francophone heritage.

The Healing Garden

The Healing Garden is a partnership project to create a site for truth and reconciliation as a visible sign of the community's commitment to form positive relationships with the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people in St. Albert.

<https://stalbert.ca/home/community/legacy/healing-garden/>

St. Albert Blanket Exercise

The St. Albert Blanket Exercise committee is comprised of representatives from Michif Cultural Connections, St. Albert United Church, St. Albert Family Resource Centre, St. Albert Community & Social Development and community volunteers. In 2017 this committee has hosted a Blanket Exercise for the City of St. Albert Administrative Assistants retreat as well as a recent one for municipal, provincial and federal government representatives (city counsellor, MLA and MP in attendance).

<http://www.stalbertunited.ca/community-and-global-action/indigenous-justice.html>

St. Albert Social Master Plan – Diversity and Inclusion

CSD created a series of community snapshots that took a look at the issues affecting marginalized communities. Although no specific work has stemmed from those snapshots, the “It Starts With Me” campaign is being headed by CSD.

Started in 2016, at the beginning of each ‘It Starts With Me’ City of St. Albert staff learning session, as well as other workshops that we facilitate, a welcome is read which includes an acknowledgement of Treaty 6 and the people who have lived here for thousands of years. A fall animation video is being planned to acknowledge Treaty 6 land.

Full-Time Staff at CSD

A business case for 2019 was submitted in 2017 for a full-time staff to address the unique human service needs of FNMI youth, adults and families who live in St. Albert.

This position would provide culturally sensitive liaison services within the municipality and interim grant funding is being pursued.

The Collective

Out of The Collective, the current case load consists of 56% self-identifying Indigenous youth. A lot of the work is focused on postsecondary planning, but The Collective also looks at linking Indigenous youth to cultural support agencies, finding culturally and spiritually supportive addictions programs for our Aboriginal and Metis youth, and supporting them to access funding through their bands.

Michif Cultural Connections

The mandate of the Michif Institute is to promote, preserve, and protect the Metis culture in the area. They house a collection of artifacts and resources, and programs, including cultural circles and workshops, youth justice mentoring, and a variety of events such as the Metis Spring Festival, National Aboriginal Day, Metis Flag Raising, and Powwows. They are a partner in the blanket exercise, as well as a partner with the museum in delivering cultural awareness training.

<https://www.facebook.com/michifstalbort/>

Musée Héritage Museum Programs

Educational Programming

- I Belong, for Kindergarten children: Introduction for children to an Aboriginal community and traditions.
- An Early Métis Community for Grade 1: Links: First Nations, Métis and Inuit, Social Studies
- The Inuit for Grade 2: Exploring Inuit culture, tradition and language by sharing objects and stories about the people of Canada's far north.
- Peru and the Aboriginal People of Canada for Grade 3: Comparative study of the history and culture of the Indigenous people of Peru and the Aboriginal people of Alberta. Inca and Cree, Mestizos and Métis.
- The Tipi as Home for Grades 4-12: Learning about Aboriginal people in Canada through the teachings of the tipi, including pole values, the importance of family and following the buffalo.
- Collective Rights for junior and senior high: Links: Aboriginal History, Social Studies
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Presentations for Grades 5-12 (in house or on site): Links: Aboriginal History, Alberta History

Presentations for individual classrooms or whole school populations to gain an overview of the people who have been living on the land for thousands of years, long before the Europeans arrived. There are also historic St. Albert tours for students, teachers and parents.

Community Programming

- Brownie, Guide, Cub and Scout programs –Aboriginal and Heritage badges



- Seniors groups – tours, discussion, sharing in house and as outreach
- Education kits – Métis kit, buffalo kit
- International Children’s Festival
- Founders’ Walk tours for all ages
- Programming around the Healing Garden including the Project of Heart, school tours
- Summer Walking tours -- History of St. Albert including Aboriginal context
- Cultural awareness for community members/groups

Aboriginal Exhibitions

- In 2017 there was the story of the Michel Band

International Children’s Festival of the Arts

Main Stage Programming

- Niniimi’iwe Aboriginal Dance (Winnipeg’s Aboriginal School of Dance – a powerful fusion of traditional and contemporary movements and music)

Site Activities

- Birch Bark Canoes (Musée Héritage Museum): curriculum links: communities in Canada, culture and community, artistic expression, cultural art, Native Canadian history, exploring and respecting ideas, attentive listening.
- Beadwork Blossoms: curriculum links: a community in the past, Alberta: celebrations and challenges, Canada: shaping identity, Aboriginal culture and community, diversity, Canada’s people.
- Métis Discovery Tent.

2. Community programs and initiatives

Health Services

There are no specific health programs administered by Alberta Health Services that are housed specifically in St. Albert.

Indigenous Health Program

The Indigenous Health Program is administered by Alberta Health Services. The nearest service-providers for the Edmonton and North region are the University of Alberta Hospital, the Royal Alexandra Hospital, and the Cross Cancer Institute.

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/service.aspx?id=1009563>

St. Albert National Aboriginal Day Celebration

The National Aboriginal Day Celebration takes place in St. Albert and brings in cultural performances, elders, and officials for festivities.

Stop Abuse in Families (SAIF) Society

SAIF has access to an elder if a client requests the services of an elder. There is no other official programming at this time. SAIF is a funding partner of the City of St. Albert



Community and Social Development.
<http://www.stopabuse.ca/>

Alberta Seniors Association

The Alberta Seniors Association has no specific programming for indigenous populations at this time. They are a funding partner of the City of St. Albert Community and Social Development.
www.stalbertseniors.ca

St. Albert Public Schools – Wisdom and Guidance Committee

Wisdom and Guidance Committee is an advisory board consisting of 25 members who provide guidance on strategies to improve programming with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students in the St. Albert Public Schools system.
<http://www.spschools.org/wisdom-and-guidance-committee>

The Project of Heart is a hands-on, collaborative, inter-generational project that seeks to share the history of Aboriginal people in Canada. It's purpose is to examine the history and legacy of Indian Residential Schools in Canada and seek the truth about that history, leading to the acknowledgement of the extent of loss to former students, their families and communities, as well as call Canadians to action, through social justice endeavours, to change our present and future history collectively. Students participated in 2016 – 2017 by creating mosaic tiles to reflect this goal.
<http://www.spschools.org/pr>

Nechi Institute

The Nechi Institute is located on the border of St. Albert in Sturgeon County. It is an indigenous training, research, and health promotion institute that offers courses and accreditation to indigenous students in Alberta and Canada. A wide variety of courses are available to students who undergo a formal application process and matriculate with the Institute.
<http://nechi.com/>

