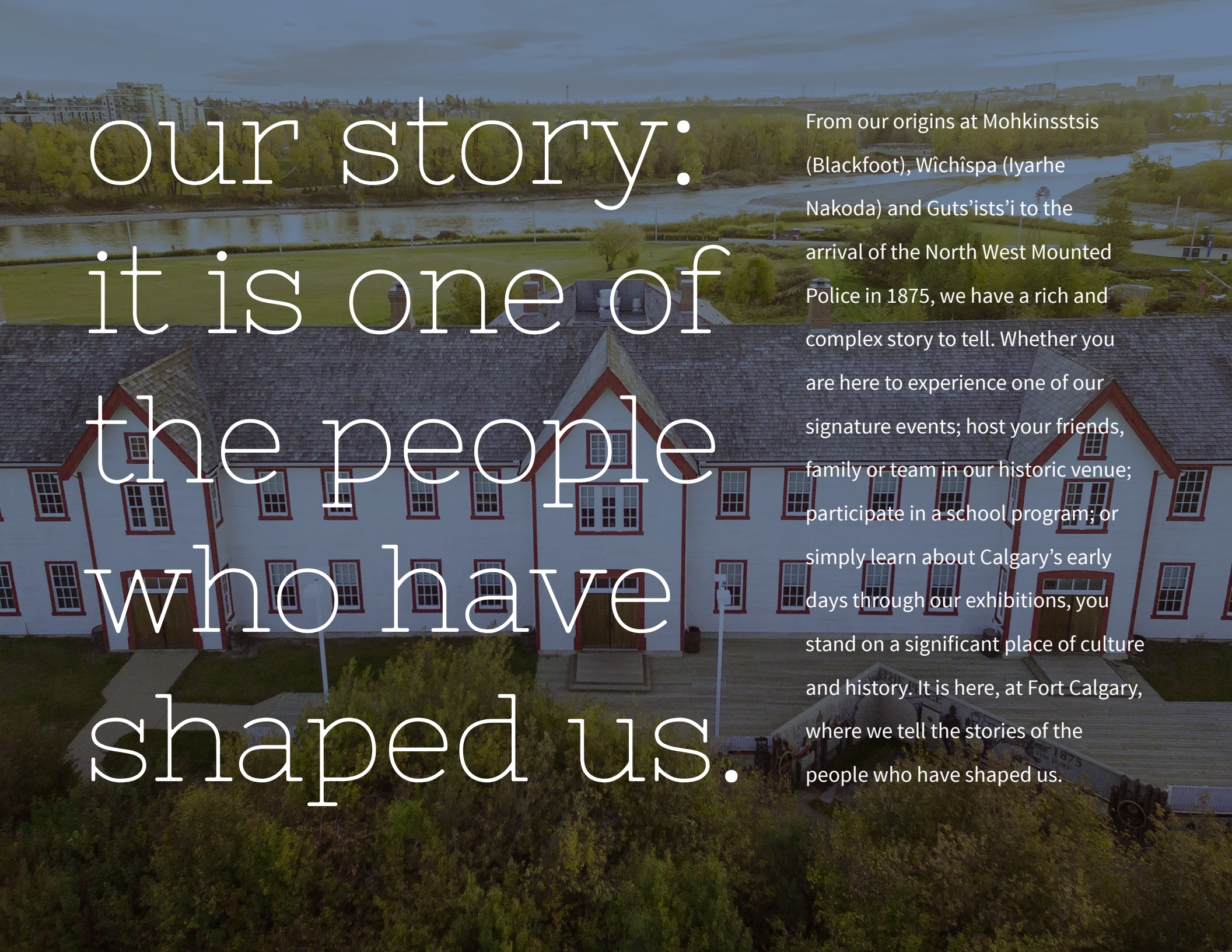




understanding and awareness. creating community. annual report 2019





our story: it is one of the people who have shaped us.

From our origins at Mohkînsîstsis (Blackfoot), Wîchîspa (Iyârhe Nakoda) and Guts'ists'i to the arrival of the North West Mounted Police in 1875, we have a rich and complex story to tell. Whether you are here to experience one of our signature events; host your friends, family or team in our historic venue; participate in a school program; or simply learn about Calgary's early days through our exhibitions, you stand on a significant place of culture and history. It is here, at Fort Calgary, where we tell the stories of the people who have shaped us.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the framework of truth, justice and reconciliation at Fort Calgary, we have amplified our efforts to work with partners and communities to create a culture of awareness and understanding. We took significant strides in 2019 to revitalize relationships with key community partners so that we can engage in more conversations and programs that help further the narrative of telling a more complete, truthful, inclusive, and historically accurate story of this site.

Message from the President and CEO

In April 2019, I was invited to join the Board at Fort Calgary. I bring nearly twenty years experience in museums and museum construction to the table, as well as my love for building museum leadership around community values. I was excited to join a team dedicated to ensuring that Fort Calgary contributes as a vital and vibrant part of the community.

Then, in the summer, when the Fort moved through leadership transition, I was happy to step into the role as President & CEO. As I changed roles, I set out to establish a clear path forward in consensus with the Board. Together, we focused on our position in community – and our role as a good partner, good neighbour, good steward, good ally.

We undertook the hard work of strategic planning, charting a course forwards that is focused on our capacity to hold space at the heart of the city for everyone. The work to build a new museum for Fort Calgary continues, with consideration of the long history of this place, and its significance for many peoples over time.

I closed the year with gratitude: thank you to the team of staff and volunteers, including the Board of Directors. Thank you to everyone who is contributing as members of the new museum advisory committees from Treaty 7, the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3, and the RCMP Veterans' Association. Thank you to our partners and funders, particularly the City of Calgary. Together, we are on a great journey of learning and building, and it is work that I am truly grateful to be doing with all of you.

Naomi Grattan, MA
President & CEO

Message from the Board of Directors

In my work at Fort Calgary, I am often humbled by the people that I am surrounded by. With each new project, initiative or partnership, I meet a group of individuals who have a deep commitment to our community. While their perspectives are unique, their goals are the same – a city that engages, inspires, and keeps getting better.

In 2019, the team at Fort Calgary took an important pause to reflect our role in the community and reassess how we could contribute the most value now and into the future. This pause came with a change in leadership as Alison Pidskalny passed the baton of President & CEO on to Naomi Grattan. Alison made a strong contribution in a short time and we are grateful for her work and for her support through our leadership transition. With Naomi at the helm, we contemplated what it meant to be a good partner, neighbour, steward and ally. Our learnings were deep and informed a new strategic plan that we look forward to communicating more broadly in 2020.

I am grateful for the staff and volunteers, including the Board of Directors, at Fort Calgary for their ongoing dedication to our community. They are a team which embraces opportunities, welcomes challenges, and approaches each project with passion and care. I anxiously anticipate the work that lies ahead.

Robin Lee, MBA
Board Chair

Community Connections.

“I am proud of Fort Calgary’s diverse programs and unique site that help Calgarians and visitors access our shared pasts and develop community connections for the future.”

Shannon Murray, PhD - Board Member
*Manager, Indigenous Programming
 Calgary Stampede*

Our community events provided many opportunities for Calgarians to gather and learn through 2019. We were excited to once again host the 10th Annual Walk for Reconciliation in June, acknowledging the larger conversation and active work of reconciliation. Over the summer, Canada Day and Heritage Day brought hundreds of families from across the city to our site. From creating an Indigenous Learn Space to teaching Métis weaving, both of these events highlighted our commitment to creating a culture of awareness and expanding the histories we tell. In November, we hosted the RCMP Veterans’ Remembrance Day ceremony. Open to the public, we welcomed over 600 guests and collected donations for the food bank. Taken together, these events build our relationships and strengthen our community connections.

The annual Remembrance Day Service at Fort Calgary commemorates the men and women who served to defend our country.
Image: Fort Calgary

Learning at the Fort.

“An understanding of how people and land are in continual relationship with each other and how those relationships change over time as land, technology and relationships move towards truth and reconciliation.”

Equal Access Teacher

In 2019, thousands of Calgary students and their teachers came to Fort Calgary to learn about their community and its past. Teachers continue to bring their students back to Fort Calgary year after year because they see the significance of the site and want to share that with their students. Our hands-on, object- and place-based programs help bring the Alberta curriculum to life and allow students to learn about the past in an experiential way.

Students connect with the concepts because they are at a historic site where many of the stories took place. We continue to promote and support learning that can happen in community spaces and support teachers as they try to connect to our site, its history, and its ecology in new and unique ways. We continue to strive to understand the complex history of our site and embrace all the stories, good and bad, and as we learn and grow we continue to offer new programs and ways to make those important connections with teachers and students of all ages.

Total Number of Students Taught: 6,111

Number of Resource Kits Booked: 35

Number of Students Accessed School Programs and Bussing through our Equal Access Initiative: 507

Number of New School Programs Piloted: 3

- 1) *Local Context: The Fur Trade*
- 2) *Traditional Ecological Knowledge*
- 3) *Applications Plants and Pollinators*

Thousands of Calgary students and their teachers visit Fort Calgary every year to learn about our community and its past. *Image: Fort Calgary*

“Museums and archives as sites of public memory and national history have a key role to play in reconciliation.”

Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015)

The 10th Annual Walk for Reconciliation commemorated the Government of Canada's formal apology to the survivors of Indian Residential Schools. Image: Fort Calgary

In October 2019, Fort Calgary staff and Board members participated in a retreat focused on integrating the work of truth, justice, and reconciliation into the organization.

Funded by the Calgary Foundation, the two-day retreat was jointly facilitated by Tim Fox and Allison Schultz of the Calgary Foundation, and Troy Patenaude from Fort Calgary. The facilitator team collaborated two Blackfoot Elders, Randy Bottle and Casey Eaglespeaker, and with Lena Soots of the Trico Changemakers Studio at Mount Royal University. The facilitation team began working in April, and by the time we gathered for the retreat at the Juniper Hotel in Banff, we were able to get to work using both traditional and contemporary approaches to systems change.

Staff from all departments of the Fort, and almost half the Board attended, contributed, and learned with open hearts and minds. The retreat also included participants from the Calgary Foundation and Calgary Arts Development Authority. A community-based approach not only helped advance the collective learning of Fort

Active Reconciliation Retreat: Treaty 7.

Calgary, but gave us shared language with colleagues across the city in other organizations.

It was a huge success.

The themes and activities during the retreat included: learning to view the work of truth, justice, and reconciliation as systems change work; learning to recognize key challenges and barriers to this work within our organization itself; learning about theories and tools we can use to keep the work of truth, justice, and reconciliation a part of everyday practice; and experiencing the value and necessity of centring Indigenous people and knowledges in this work.

Fort Calgary acknowledges that we still have a lot to learn, but this retreat helped strengthen our foundation, and helped us build a more unified vision for this work as we move forward on this journey.

DONORS – OPERATING FUND
AND CAPITAL FUND

\$100,000 and over

The City of Calgary
James & Patricia Burns

\$25,000 - \$99,999

Estate of Jack Crossley
(Former volunteer)
Province of Alberta

\$5,000 - \$24, 999

Anonymous (1)
Government of Canada
Calgary Foundation
Rupertsland Institute

\$4,999 and under

“Fill our Boots” donations
McBride Group
Heritage Chapter – National Society
Daughters of the American Revolution
Margaret Hooper
Horst Kersten
Gerald Knowlton

DONORS – MAKE HISTORY FUND 2019

Anonymous Donor through the
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Bev Longstaff
Gerrit Groeneweg
Robert Head
Bernadine Chapman

KEY COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Treaty 7 Nations

Piikani Nation
Kainai Nation
Siksika Nation
Tsuut’ina Nation
Iyarhe Nakoda Nation
Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3

Education Partners

Calgary Board of Education
Charter School Boards
Calgary Catholic School Board

Community Partners

RCMP Veterans’ Association
Calgary Foundation
Calgary Municipal Land Corporation
Calgary Stampede
Ramsay Community Association
East Village Neighborhood Association
Inglewood Community Association
Aspen Family and Community Network Society
Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary
Sunrise Community Link
The Alex Community Health Centre

Tourism Partners

Tourism Calgary
Calgary Attractions Consortium
Music Mile
Travel Alberta

Government Partners

Government of Canada
Government of Alberta
City of Calgary

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Preeha Lashari – Marketing and Communications Officer
Christina Metters – Executive and Board Liaison
Erica Olmstead – Education Manager
Troy Patenaude – Director of Cultural Development
Kate Price – Vice President Visitor Experience
Sanjiv Rana – Kitchen Manager
Kaitlin Roth – Visitor Services Supervisor
Dannika Spady – Education Coordinator

Visitors: 25,193
International: 4,763
New Canadians: 649
Students: 6,111

Online Community: 10,259
Facebook: 4,254
Instagram: 1,805
Twitter: 4,200

Events Hosted: 1,382
Guests: 92,669
Scones Served: 62,431
Large Outdoor Events: 7

fortcalgary.com

connecting to the past.

Terence DeGuzman
Don Bosco School

