



Lakeland Society for Truth and Reconciliation

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TOWN COUNCIL OF BONNYVILLE

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March 17, 2025

ATTENTION: Mayor Brosseau and Town Council of Bonnyville

**RE: Request to be Added as a Delegation to Propose Installation of
Community Healing Garden in the Town of Bonnyville**

Tanisi! Taanishi! Greetings!

We request to be added as a Delegation for the next Town Council meeting.

As you know, the Lakeland Society for Truth and Reconciliation formed as a registered nonprofit society in Alberta in 2022. Our goals are to support activities that increase education and awareness surrounding Indigenous Canadian history and generational impacts of Indian Residential Schools on survivors, their families and communities; to embrace Indigenous traditions, culture and language; to provide safe spaces for survivors, elders, knowledge keepers, educators to share their stories and raise healthy conversations surrounding the information provided; to build relationships and allyships as we all walk towards the path of healing and reconciliation.

Amongst our society's goals is to seek a designated area in our community that acknowledges all of this; a place that is centered on healing and reconciliation; a place that is easily accessible to the general public and local schools; a place that is deemed a safe space to congregate for truth telling and heartfelt discussions. With these goals in mind, we searched many land locations within the Town of Bonnyville, which brings us to the purpose of this letter.

We are writing invite you to work with us in partnership to build this Community Healing Garden along Lakeshore Drive, in the area of 49 Avenue and 51 Street. The healing garden would measure approximately 100x100 ft. Please find attached a rough drawing of the proposed healing garden. Our proposed plan includes: culturally significant plants that are native to our area and considered to be of healing value, an underground irrigation system, a concrete/paved circular area with a medicine wheel and turtle painted in the centre, a walkway around the centre with paths to access the plants, a pergola with benches for seating, a monument with the Seven Grandfather Teachings, a sculpture, healing hands, display boards/plaques, flags and poles, space for a tipi and a portable personalized fire pit for sacred fire ceremonies, fencing around the perimeter with one main entrance/exit. I imagine that the ground would also have to be worked up and black soil brought in too. We are still working on the costs for this project and will send this to you once we have the amounts.

We are hoping to have this area open to the public all year long so that people can visit, reflect, heal, and congregate. The healing garden can also be a place to acknowledge significant Indigenous dates such as January 4th for National Ribbon Skirt Day, May 5th for MMIW Awareness Day, the month of June for National Indigenous Month, June 21st for National Indigenous People's Day, September 30th for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, October 4th for MMIW Memorial Day, November 8th for National Indigenous Veteran's Day, November 16th for Louis Riel Day, November 15th for Rock your Mocs, December 21st for Winter Solstice.

Clearly fundraising would be an important consideration. We are currently looking into grants and corporate sponsorship options that we might be eligible for. We propose to lead the way for obtaining funding but of course, respectfully welcome your partnership in assistance and collaboration.

We look forward to working together in the near future.

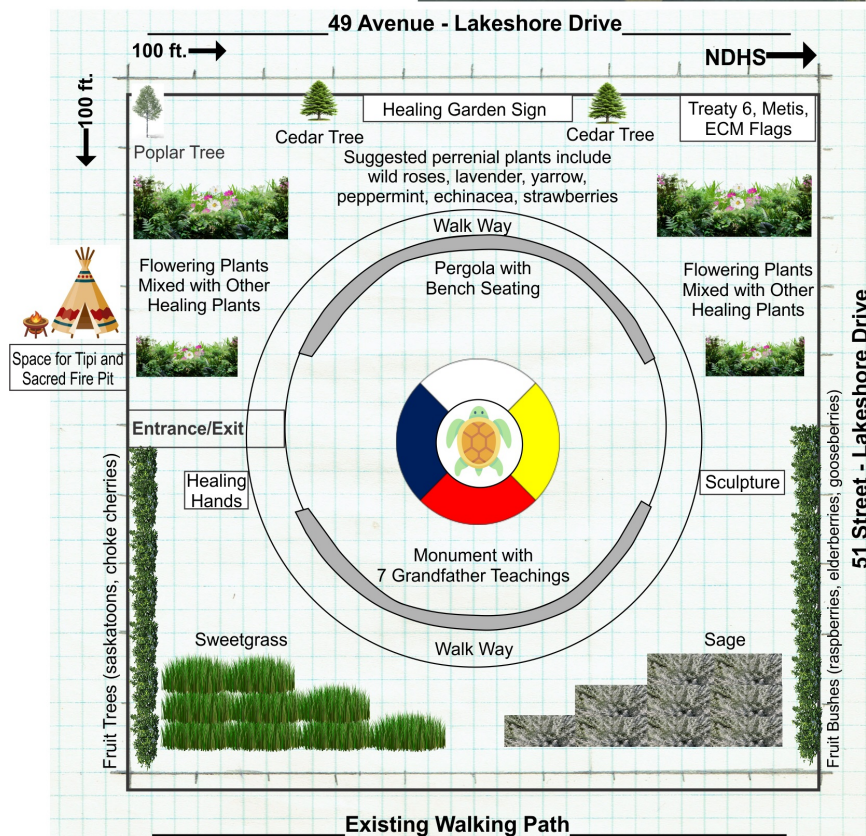
Hiy! Hiy! Maarsi!

On Behalf of Our Governing Board of Directors,

CORITA VACHON
President

Healing Garden for Lakeland Society for Truth and Reconciliation

Location: Bonnyville Lakeshore Drive - 49 Avenue and 51 Street



- Underground irrigation system installed.
- Monument made of metal or other material.
- Front of Monument with 7 Grandfather Teachings Approx 4 Ft wide x 7 = 28 Ft.
- Back of Monument TBD (possibly list of former Blue Quills IRS student names).
- Walkway MUST be accessible for handicapped.
- Paths to access plants around perimeter.
- Plaques with information of plants and traditional uses; Possible use of QR codes.
- Healing Hands Statue.
- Flags and Flag Poles.
- Space for tipi and portable fire pit for sacred fires.
- Fencing around parameter with one entry point.
- Space for future building, if possible.

