



**TIPI OF HOPE  
FOUNDATION**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**October 29, 2024**

### **Tipi of Hope Foundation launches Benches for Hope Program**

CALGARY – The Tipi of Hope Foundation (Tipi of Hope), an Indigenous-founded and led registered charity, is launching its first Bench of Hope at the Peter Lougheed Centre alongside its partners on October 30, 2024.

Benches for Hope, a program created by Tipi of Hope alongside Indigenous Survivors and Elders, is designed to interconnect safe spaces. Each bench contains the Tipi of Hope trademarked logo and a customized QR code that links directly to resources that support Indigenous services and advance reconciliation. Each partner involved in the program has committed to taking active, meaningful steps toward the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

“As a member of the Circle of Tipi of Hope and as a Survivor of Assumption (Hay Lakes) Residential School, I ideated with Tipi of Hope around interconnecting spaces to increase support of services available for Indigenous peoples in Canada,” says Phyllis Chonkolay, Dene Tha’ First Nation. “Benches for Hope is an accessible program that removes barriers for companies to engage in reconciliation actively. It’s more than one day a year, and this program helps me think beyond the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.”

The Benches for Hope inaugural bench is being installed at the Peter Lougheed Centre. Each bench is unique but has one thing in common: it interconnects safe spaces for Indigenous peoples and provides:

- A safe and inclusive place for all Indigenous peoples and communities to rest and reflect.
- A link to Indigenous wellness services available through this program.
- A space to encourage all to stop, sit and reflect on their journey of reconciliation.

Melissa Lundy, Founder and President of Tipi of Hope (Métis), emphasizes the broader vision: “This program is an important step forward in the journey of reconciliation and will hopefully provide clearer access to services available for Indigenous patients receiving care through our partners. But this is just the beginning, Reconciliation means reflection and action. Our partners are continuing to take steps to address prejudice, violence, systemic racism and discrimination that Indigenous peoples in this country continue to face. This program will hopefully only continue to remove these barriers.”

Tipi of Hope recognizes that funds for the inaugural bench were made possible because of donations they received and through partnerships and collaborations with Alfred (Al) Dumont, Intrinsi, Just B Diversity and Consulting, and Alberta Health Services. More information can be found here: <https://tipiofhope.ca/benches-for-hope-program/>

**Call to Action: Expanding the Benches for Hope Program** Tipi of Hope is actively seeking additional partners and funding to expand the Benches of Hope program across Canada. The Foundation is also looking for Indigenous carpenters to construct additional benches. Interested parties are encouraged to contact [info@tipiofhope.ca](mailto:info@tipiofhope.ca) to learn how they can contribute to this meaningful journey of reconciliation.

### **About Tipi of Hope Foundation**

Tipi of Hope Foundation is an Indigenous-founded and led Registered Charity that provides a path for Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to create a joint vision of reconciliation. We work collaboratively with all peoples, communities, organizations, and groups to ensure meaningful action. We implement programs for the public on Indigenous values, culture, history, and reconciliation and advance access to culturally appropriate wellness programs for Indigenous peoples.

Media are invited to attend the unveiling ceremony.

### **Event details:**

DATE: Wednesday, October 30

TIME: Please meet at the west entrance at 8:45 a.m. where an AHS Communications representative will be on-hand to escort you to the event.

Media event begins at 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Peter Lougheed Centre - 3500 26 Ave NE, Calgary  
West entrance

### **Media Contact**

Melissa Lundy, Founder and President – Tipi of Hope Foundation

[info@tipiofhope.ca](mailto:info@tipiofhope.ca)

403-819-6777

