

Overview

Naming, Renaming, Commemoration, and Removal Handbook

DEVELOPED BY HERITAGE CALGARY

Heritage Calgary understands that the act of bestowing a name is intimate and, in many cases, sacred. Naming, Renaming, Commemoration, and Removal (NRCR) projects are opportunities for communities to honour, celebrate, remember, and learn. They are complex initiatives that take time, research, and a lot of conversation. The 8 Step process outlined here captures what stakeholders, community members, and the research showed us about how NRCR projects can be approached. It gives your group tools to navigate what might be both a contested and rewarding experience. This 8 Step process is intended to help community groups, businesses, organizations, and governments work through twelve NRCR Principles which represent the core questions that NRCR projects deal with. The complete process, as well as additional discussion questions for each of the Principles, are captured in the *Naming, Renaming, Commemoration, and Removal Handbook*. Visit www.heritagecalgary.ca/naming for the complete Handbook and more information and resources.



The Calgary area where the Bow and Elbow Rivers meet is a place of confluence where the sharing of ideas and opportunities naturally come together. Indigenous Peoples have their own names for this area that have been in use long before Scottish settlers named this place **Calgary**. In the Blackfoot language, they call this place **Moh'kinsstis**.

The Stoney Nakoda Nation refer to the Calgary area as **Wichispa Oyade**, and the people of the Tsuut'ina Nation call this area **Guts-ists-i**. The Métis call the Calgary area **Otos-kwunee**.

Heritage Calgary acknowledges that this project took place on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta. This includes: the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations collectively known as the Blackfoot Confederacy, along with the Blackfeet in Montana; the Iethka Nakoda Wicastabi First Nations, comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations; and the Tsuut'ina First Nation. The city of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3. We acknowledge all Indigenous urban Calgarians, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis who have made Calgary their home.

NRCR PRINCIPLES

As you prepare for your naming, renaming, commemoration, or removal project, review these Principles and think about how they apply to your project, and how you will respond to them in your research and community conversations and in your planning. See the Handbook for helpful questions to guide you through the process. Consider:

- How do the Principles influence your group's shared values as you move through the project?
- How will you address these Principles when you are asked about them in the community, by impacted groups and people, or in the media?

At the end of the project, after the community engagement and research is complete, and a recommendation is being prepared and championed, come back to the Principles to identify if anything is missing in your approach or has shifted in your thinking.

NAMING AND COMMEMORATION PRINCIPLES

- Involve the community and people for whom the issue is important.**
- Understand the historical significance and original intention for the installation or name.**
- Understand any harm associated with the individual, event, or practice.**
- Engage with original namers or installers, or their community or descendants, when appropriate or possible.**
- Understand the land on which the statue, memorial, or commemoration is being placed or that the name will relate to.**
- Think about the physical context of the installation or naming/renaming opportunity.**
- Identify opportunities for education and awareness (i.e., historical significance, diversity of the community, impact for equity-seeking communities).**
- Amplify histories, people, and events that have been traditionally undertold or less known.**
- Align with the values or principles of the community or organization.**
- Explore the meaning or significance to the current community.**
- Consider meaning and significance acquired or lost over time.**
- Explore if the name or commemoration is honouring the whole person or a single act.**

