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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland to Receive 2024 Leadership Award for Sustainability from the Alberta Museums Association

August 14, 2024

Edmonton, Alberta - The Alberta Museums Association (AMA) is pleased to announce The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland as the recipient of the AMA's 2024 Leadership Award for Sustainability, in recognition of their work to link cultural and social sustainability to the future of their site through community engagement work.

The Confluence, formerly known as Fort Calgary, underwent a formal engagement process in 2023 to explore a future that centered on their location at the meeting of the Bow and Elbow Rivers, and the layered stories that encompass the full history of the land. This project drew on their existing Indigenous Advisory Council, surveys of residents, workshops, an Indigenous youth round table, and interviews with active and former members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, whose stories had been the focus for much of Fort Calgary's history. As a result of this work, on May 2, 2024, the museum changed its name to The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland, and Blackfoot Elder Leonard Bastien Weasel Traveller gave the site the Blackfoot name l'táámito'táaattsiyio'pi, meaning harmonious meeting place.

The rebrand and new strategic plan realized a community priority to included operational changes that emphasize the importance of telling diverse stories and building reciprocal relationships. From developing policy for their Indigenous collections with their Indigenous Advisory Council, to partnering with curators and programmers to share stories from diverse communities such as the Chinese community and the queer community, and ongoing Indigenous-led exhibit-redevelopment, the work of The Confluence has shifted to reflect the idea that different perspectives can co-exist and flow together.

The transition to The Confluence was also accompanied by considerations for the financial and ecological sustainability of the site as a meeting place for future generations. The Confluence's Reciprocity Program draws from a dedicated portion of admission revenues to support a no-cost ceremony and event space for Indigenous groups at the museum. Further, in response feedback from community engagement, the land was made a strategic priority through the development of a Site Concept Plan that creates investment opportunities to improve, maintain, and protect the land, and reduce the environmental impacts of programming and events.

The Confluence's work to integrate the land, the diverse histories, and the ethos of a meeting place into their ongoing work highlights their leadership in creating a thriving and relevant museum sector, both now and far into the future.



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Nominations for the Leadership Awards are adjudicated by the Leadership Awards Committee, comprised of Individual Members of the AMA. The Award will be presented at an Awards Ceremony during the AMA's 2024 Fall Gathering. The Confluence's achievements will be celebrated during this Awards Ceremony, taking place on Saturday, September 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Drumheller, Alberta.

Background

The Leadership Award for Sustainability recognizes recipients who build organizational vibrancy. Recipients in this category work to integrate the Five Facets of Sustainability (cultural, health and well-being, environmental, financial, and social) into their museum practice. They implement best practices that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by supporting forward-thinking research, exhibits, conservation practices, and programming. They are seen as leaders due to their bold and inspiring work. They actively lead and participate in community projects and programs that consider environmental and social issues and play an important role in creating a thriving museum sector, both now and far into the future.

The AMA Leadership Awards recognize the exceptional work of Alberta museums and museum professionals in creating value, accessibility, and relevance in their communities. The Leadership Awards recognize excellence, innovation, and creativity in Alberta's museum community in three categories: Engagement, Education, and Sustainability. More information about the AMA Leadership Awards can be found on the [AMA website](#).

The Alberta Museums Association provides a variety of programs and services to over 500 museums and museum professionals across Alberta. Through its focus on community engagement, social responsibility, and sustainability, the AMA utilizes its funding, accreditation, awards, and professional development opportunities to support institutions in their vital role as leading contributors to the social, cultural, and educational fabric of Alberta. The AMA believes that museums can leverage their positions as trusted institutions to encourage respectful dialogue, provide educational opportunities, and bring awareness to some of society's most pressing issues.

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