



Alberta Court of Justice

Calgary Criminal Division

Courtroom 1800 – The Calgary Indigenous Court

Effective: September 21, 2022

Overview

The Calgary Indigenous Court (CIC) was established in 2019 to provide a culturally relevant, restorative, and holistic system of justice for Indigenous individuals, including the accused (defendant), victims and the community harmed by a defendant's actions. The CIC is a response to the unique challenges and circumstances of the Indigenous people. It seeks to address the issue of overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the justice system and is a step forward in implementing recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as well as the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman and Girls National Inquiry (MMIWG) Report.

The CIC focuses on a restorative justice approach to crime through peacemaking and connecting affected people to their cultures and communities. CIC will address judicial interim release and the disposition of matters, including sentencing hearings. CIC is open to any defendant who is Indigenous and chooses to have matters addressed in the CIC.

Typically matters in the CIC relate to charges in Calgary. Regional matters may be waived in where there is an appropriate reason to do so. Defendants, upon their first appearance in CIC, will take steps to develop a Healing Plan with the Case Management Table comprised of agencies in the city who provide services to Indigenous people. Judicial interim release orders and probation orders may include a condition to develop a Healing Plan specific to the defendant. Healing Plans may include both traditional and developmental forms of healing, including addictions treatment, trauma counselling, FASD supports and cultural activities. Healing Plans are used to identify Indigenous community support agencies to assist in reintegrating defendants into the community, and, where appropriate, also encourage them to learn about and reconnect with their Indigenous heritage. A blanket ceremony may be held in the CIC to acknowledge the successful completion of a probation order and the Healing Plan. CIC offers restorative justice peacemaking for those participants who wish to use peacemaking as part of their healing journey.

Procedures/Guidelines:

1. CIC hears docket matters in the morning, as well as scheduled judicial interim release hearings and sentencing hearings. Court proceedings are held every Wednesday, starting at 9:00 a.m. There is a morning (9:00-12:30) and afternoon session (2:00-4:30).
2. Judicial interim release hearings will be held between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. each day and are to be booked through the Case Management Office and scheduled based on anticipated length (in minutes) within the following one-hour time slots:
 - a. 9:00a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
 - b. 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
3. Dispositions, including guilty pleas, sentencing hearings and probation reviews will be held between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and between 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. each day and are to be booked through the Case Management Office and scheduled based on anticipated length (in minutes) within the following one-hour time slots:
 - a. 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 - b. 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 - c. 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
4. Because the process of developing, monitoring, and completing a healing plan takes longer than the conventional sentencing process, a waiver of Jordan rights relating to delay is required.
5. Blanket ceremonies will be held between 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. and will be booked through the court in one-hour time slots.