

Empowering Indigenous Voices: The Walking Alongside You(th) Project



Why this is important

We partner with school divisions and Indigenous community leaders as part of *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC-IDG)* grant-funded research. The project asks Indigenous youth and their peers what programming, courses, and culturally-specific teachings they would like to see in their schools and communities. Equipped with these findings, we work with the partners to put the students' requests into action.

In April 2023, the University was awarded the *Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF)* grant to support the University of Calgary's *One Child Every Child (OCEC)* initiative. The *Walking Alongside You(th)* project aims to build on the previously SSHRC-funded research and grow new relationships. Communities will determine the specific questions regarding how to best support the students' goals, dreams, needs, and interests for life after high school. Working together, our research partnerships will enact programmatic, curricular, and structural transformation.

What we have heard

Broadly speaking, students want:

- Exposure to many career paths
- Access to trades
- University pathways
- More electives/options including, arts, sports, and language programming
- Agricultural training
- Bridging programs
- Connection with Elders and community
- Language teachings
- Land-based teachings
- Harvesting and plant medicines
- Traditional activities and protocols

What we provide

The funding supports ongoing cycles of research with youth. Depending on what the students are requesting and what community leaders prioritize, we aim to support the implementation of the students' requests.

We are open to possibilities that serve youth and their communities and welcome further discussion with potential partners.

How to contact us

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