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## **The North American Indigenous Games Council Retracts Calgary Hosting Rights**

After extensive efforts, and with a heavy heart, the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) Council shares the news that the 2027 NAIG, will no longer be taking place in Calgary, Alberta in 2027.

Following a period of deep reflection and careful consideration, NAIG Council has made the difficult decision to withdraw the hosting rights previously granted to the Calgary Host Society. This decision was not made lightly. Over the past two years, NAIG Council has worked closely with the Host Society to support their efforts—providing guidance, capacity-building support, resources, and external expertise to assist with planning and budgeting processes required to deliver a successful Games. Despite the collective efforts of many, it became increasingly clear that critical benchmarks could not be met. To uphold the integrity of the Games and ensure the long-term strength of the NAIG movement, NAIG Council has made the difficult but necessary decision to retract the previously awarded hosting rights for NAIG 2027.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to the Calgary 2027 initiative, particularly Dr. Chief Littlechild, who has served as Chair of the Host Society Board since March 2025. Their dedication and commitment to the vision of NAIG have been deeply valued.

We recognize that this announcement may be deeply disappointing to Indigenous athletes, coaches, families, and communities across Turtle Island who were looking forward to gathering in Calgary. We want to assure everyone that NAIG Council remains steadfast in its commitment to Indigenous youth and to the ongoing advancement of the NAIG movement.

Our focus now turns to identifying a new path forward—one that protects the spirit and legacy of the Games and minimizes disruption for the youth and communities we serve.

Further updates on the plans for NAIG will be shared in the coming weeks.