



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Trellis Society Announces \$100,000 Donation for ReconciliAction Work**

### **TD Bank Group Teams Up with Local Non-Profit to Support Holistic Services**

CALGARY, Alberta —Trellis Society is honoured to receive a \$100,000 transformative gift from TD Bank Group. Aimed at supporting Trellis Society's Indigenous Initiatives work, this investment will support Circle Keepers who are offering healing and community connections to Indigenous community members within Trellis' programs.

In 2022-23 over 17% of Trellis Society's program participants identified as Indigenous. Whether walking through the door of the Avenue 15 youth shelter, living in a Home Fire apartment, participating in Indigenous youth programming through Iiyika'kimaat, or accessing the support needed to maintain housing for their family, people coming to Trellis were seeking connections to their culture.

"Having the opportunity to connect to Indigenous ways of knowing and being, learn on the land, and grow through ceremonies and teachings from Elders from your own community are life-giving experiences that many don't have access to," says Shelly Wade, Trellis Society's Director of Indigenous Initiatives.

"Facilitating access to culture for people in our community is not optional but often we have faced financial constraints that have limited how broadly we can offer this support across our service continuum." With support from Elders from surrounding Indigenous nations, Circle Keepers are key connectors for participants in Trellis programs. Providing access to ceremony, teaching ways of knowing and instilling self-pride is at the core of the work the Circle Keepers do. They meet with people where they are, building connections between generations and holding ceremonies for youth and families. Circle Keepers help clear a renewed path for Indigenous people who are seeking ways to connect and to renew traditions within an urban setting.

This exciting new donation, which is being funded through the TD Ready Commitment, will be celebrated by Trellis and TD by sharing in a Blanket Exercise to further both organization's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

"Trellis Society is thrilled that TD is keen to support a growing, inclusive, and connected community," says Jeff Dyer, Chief Executive Officer of Trellis Society.

"The Circle Keepers at Trellis work across the agency, supporting children, youth, and families, and we are seeing folks' well-being change remarkably as their pride in and connection to culture is strengthened. Last year the Circle Keepers facilitated 499 cultural ceremonies and activities and through this generous investment from TD we will continue to grow the impact of this support and increase access to culture for everyone that Trellis serves."

"We're so proud to help Trellis Society expand their programming and services for Indigenous Peoples," said Robert Ghazal, Senior Vice-President and Prairie Region Head, TD Bank Group. "Through the TD Ready Commitment, our corporate citizenship platform, we're supporting community initiatives that foster a sense of belonging and help reach underserved populations."

To learn more about Trellis' Indigenous Initiatives, visit <https://www.growwithtrellis.ca/indigenous-initiatives>

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**ABOUT TRELIS SOCIETY**

[Trellis Society](#) works with people of all ages and backgrounds, including those caught at the intersection of society's most complex needs. They support individuals and families to overcome barriers and flourish within community. Through dedicated efforts and the support of the community, they serve over 7,000 young people and families affected by homelessness, poverty, mental health barriers, and intergenerational trauma.