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NEW ICC CALGARY CITIZENSHIP COMMITTEE PRESENTS ITS FIRST CEREMONY ON NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY JUNE 21

Calgary - The Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC) announces a new volunteer citizenship committee in Calgary, which will be presenting its first ceremony in partnership with the ICC and Citizenship and Immigration Canada on June 21, **National Aboriginal Day**. Forty citizens from 17 countries will be welcomed at the ceremony at the Glenbow Museum (**130 9 Avenue Southeast**) beginning at **9:15 a.m.**

"We are thrilled that the newly established Calgary citizenship committee has chosen to hold their first community citizenship ceremony on National Aboriginal Day," said Claire Reid, Director of Building Citizenship. "It was the First Nations who welcomed the first immigrants to Canada over four centuries ago and who adopted them into their circles. The circle is an important symbol amongst the First Nations and is also a metaphor for the inclusive citizenship that we at the ICC promote through the establishment of citizenship committees like this one here in Calgary."

Prior to the ceremony, the ICC, in conjunction with the Calgary citizenship committee and Citizenship and Immigration Canada will hold a community roundtable discussion with new citizens. These roundtables are facilitated by volunteers from the community to strengthen the connection between new Canadians and their communities and to discuss the meaning of active citizenship.

"It's going to be a wonderful event," said Kerry Longpré, member of the Calgary committee. "In addition to the roundtable discussions, Blackfoot Elder Clarence Wolfleg Sr. will be speaking and students from Crowfoot Elementary School at Siksika Nation, will be performing. As well, new Canadians will participate in an 'honour song,' a traditional way to welcome and celebrate accomplishments, followed by a mini powwow."

There are currently 26 volunteer citizenship committees across Canada, as part of ICC's Building Citizenship, a national grassroots program that establishes volunteer committees of local citizens. The Institute for Canadian Citizenship is a national, non-profit organization based in Toronto and founded and co-chaired by the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson and John Ralston Saul. The ICC is dedicated to engaging Canadians about citizenship. www.icc-icc.ca

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