



UNWIHW 2024: EVENT REPORT

In 2017, the inaugural year of the Calgary Interfaith Council, we participated in the United Nations World Interfaith Harmony week, submitted an event report and were amazed and grateful to receive First Prize. This was a significant support to us as we were just emerging as an organization.

Since 2017, we have celebrated UNWIHW every February, including online events during the pandemic. Our participation in this opportunity has become a signature activity for the Calgary Interfaith Council and is one of the ways we actualize our mission.

The Calgary Interfaith Council seeks to build a more just and respectful Calgary through:

- *deepening relationships across faith traditions*
- *celebrating diversity*
- *learning from and about each other*

In this report we will share an overview, brief summaries of the [eight events hosted during UNWIHW](#), photos, videos and media coverage. As you can see, we had so much energy that we enjoyed a UNWIHW Week-and-a-half!



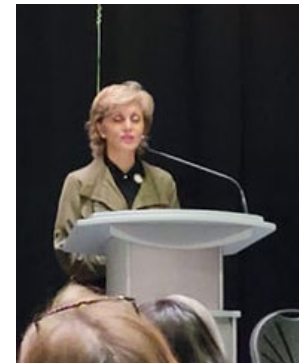
OVERVIEW

Planning for the UNWIHW 2024 began in August of the previous year. We set up a Coordinating Committee and subcommittees for each of the particular events. The committees are populated with representatives from different faiths so that in our working together we are accomplishing the very goal of UNWIHW.

This year we had some exciting new evolutions. We were pleased and grateful for the participation of children performing a reader's theatre of the Zen parable *Stone Soup* in our opening ceremony at City Hall. This was appreciated and valued by everybody who attended, including Mayor of Calgary Jyoti Gondek. Also included in the opening ceremony was [a short video](#) with diverse reflections on the application of the *Stone Soup* story to interfaith work.

We used large helium-filled balloon letters, UNWIHW, as a place for taking pictures, playing and celebrating with each other. These balloons were enjoyed at many events, as the photographs included in this report demonstrate.

The CIC worked with new partners this year, particularly the University of Calgary and students both for an event around Scriptural Reasoning and a lecture at Calgary's Main Public Library.



OPENING CEREMONY

DATE: FEB 1 7PM

PLACE: ATRIUM, CITY HALL

ATTENDEES: 80

SCRIPTURAL REASONING

DATE: JAN. 26, 12-1:30PM

PLACE: FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

ATTENDEES: 30



FROM STRANGERS TO NEIGHBOURS: CHAIR OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

DATE: FEB 2, 3-4:30PM

PLACE: MAIN CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

ATTENDEES: 30

We also created an opportunity for people from different faiths to volunteer together supporting a local Salvation Army homeless shelter. Seven women from diverse faiths — Bahai, Buddhist, Christian, Indigenous, Jewish Muslim and Sikh — talked about female leaders from their faith traditions at an event celebrating women of faith. This was inspiring and empowering for the men and women who attended.

A few events have become standbys. The Interfaith Potluck is always a wonderful opportunity to gather around diverse food and to have conversations about what our faiths have in common and in what ways they are unique. This event always leaves people feeling connected and with greater understanding. The Interfaith concert, including a children's Interfaith choir, is a great place for people to hear and participate in songs of peace. As you can see, our events happened throughout Calgary and were well attended.

A further new development for 2024 was a more thorough social media campaign. We posted all of our events on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) as well as through e-news communications with our email lists, and on [YouTube](#) and our [website](#).

WORKING TOGETHER

DATE: FEB 3,
2-3:30PM

PLACE:
SALVATION
ARMY CENTER
FOR HOPE

ATTENDEES: 22



STRANGERS TO NEIGHBOURS INTERFAITH POTLUCK

DATE: FEB 4, 6:30-8:30PM

PLACE: THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

ATTENDEES: 150

WHAT DO WORLD RELIGIONS HAVE TO SAY TO RECONCILIATION?

DATE: FEB 6, 7-8PM

PLACE: ONLINE

ATTENDEES: 10



WOMEN OF FAITH: RECOGNISING FEMALE LEADERSHIP

DATE: FEB 8, 7-9PM

PLACE: FCJ CENTRE

ATTENDEES: 40

SONGS FOR PEACE INTERFAITH CONCERT

DATE: FEB 11, 2-3:30PM

PLACE: MCDUGALL UNITED CHURCH

ATTENDEES: 200

