



Aboriginal Gathering Place

College of the Rockies' Aboriginal Gathering Place is a stunning structure which reflects the beauty and grace of the cultures and the stories of the people of the Ktunaxa and Shuswap Nations and those other Aboriginal peoples living within the College region. The building serves to acknowledge and honour the Ktunaxa traditional territory within which the College resides. It will act as a transition place for youth and other Aboriginal learners where they can meet others, identify supports, familiarize themselves with the College and its programs and do the planning required to enter and be successful in post-secondary studies.

The goals and objectives of the Gathering Place include providing:

- a bridge between the school system and attendance at the College by providing a culturally sensitive environment and facility for Aboriginal students to heal and learn
- a tangible symbol of the partnership between College of the Rockies and Aboriginal people in the region
- the opportunity for non-Aboriginal students and staff to experience and share inter-cultural events with Aboriginal people
- a culturally significant and architectural show place where meetings and events will create better global understanding of the rich Aboriginal cultural heritage of the region.
- access to a world-class (small) conference and meeting facility

Funding

- \$600,000 in funding for the Aboriginal Gathering Place was provided by the Province of BC.
- \$200,000 in funding was provided by Columbia Basin Trust.
- Additional funding was provided by Teck Resources and the Ktunaxa Nation.



Timelines

- January 2008 – Ministry of Advanced Education announces funding for the Aboriginal Gathering Place at College of the Rockies
- October 2010 – Official ground-breaking ceremony takes place at site of the Gathering Place
- October 2014 – The Gathering Place is officially opened.