

December 21, 2025

Exciting Updates on Our Insight Meditation Retreat Center Vision

Dear Prairie Sangha Friends,

We are excited to share that, since June 2024, a small group representing five Insight Meditation communities from Saskatchewan and Alberta has been actively exploring the possibility of creating a dedicated Theravada Insight Meditation Retreat Center in Canada. This vision has long resided in the hearts of many of us, and our working group is committed to assessing its feasibility. We believe now is the time to share our developments with the wider sangha.

Recent Achievements:

In the past year and a half, we have made significant strides:

- **Community Connections:** We have engaged with sanghas across British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec, discovering support for our vision nationwide, including from our friends in the U.S.
- **Leadership:** We are honored to have Peter Tucker, an experienced facilitator with a distinguished background in non-profit organizations, chairing our committee and now our board. Additionally, we have assembled a talented and enthusiastic board from our sanghas, ready to support this project.
- **Rental Search:** Our search for rental venues across Canada identified an appropriate location near Edmonton, where we are currently planning retreats. This process emphasized the growing challenges and limited options for suitable venues.
- **Real Estate Exploration:** Our real estate search of Saskatchewan and Alberta has shown no options, however, our realtors are continuing to look for possibilities for us. We are exploring some private leads this winter.
- **Charitable Incorporation:** We have officially established the Prairie Sky Insight Meditation Society, a name that symbolizes the spaciousness of the sky and our collective practice. Our vision is to develop an Insight Meditation center in Canada, potentially on the prairies. Once established, we can engage the community in naming the center.

Next steps:

- Draft bylaws for our society.
- Continue to build a cohesive board with diverse skills necessary for our advancement.
- Initiate fundraising efforts.

How You Can Help:

- If you possess skills in fundraising, legal expertise, and strong communication and teamwork abilities, consider joining our board. We view volunteering as a path of practice, fostering mutual support as we deepen our dharma practice.

- If you know of any potential properties for purchase - such as converting a residential building in rural Saskatchewan or Alberta - please reach out.

We will keep you updated on our progress through the sanghas. Together, let's advance this beautiful vision as a prairie community. For ongoing details, visit our website: Prairie Sky Insight Meditation Society. Should you have questions or wish to join a specific update mailing list, please contact us at contact@prairieskyims.ca.

With warmth and gratitude,
SIMC, RIMC, CIMS, EIM, and CBTC

Saskatoon Insight Meditation Community, Regina Insight Meditation Community, Calgary Insight Meditation Society, Edmonton Insight Meditation, and the Canmore Theravada Buddhist Community