



**Grant Committee Report  
October 2023**

Grants Committee Members:

Ken Brennan (Chair), Pat Nodrick, John Lavalley, Winnie Pauch and Bev Gradidge

Staff: Kim Lavalley (Executive Director)



### **Fall 2023**

A total of 18 grant applications were received requesting \$285,039.77 and CFPD had allocated \$165,000 for this Grant Cycle. The Grants Committee met on October 19, 2023 to review & discuss the applications.

The following report from the grants committee includes the details on all applications evaluated as well as the 15 projects the committee is recommending for funding totaling \$164,008.52.

Organization Name	Project Description	Sector	Requested	Recommended
CFSCM Foundation	Marketing Materials	Child Welfare, Youth Development, Family Well-being	5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00
Portage Service for Seniors	Food Preservation	Social Services	2,527.14	\$ 2,527.14
Oakville Community Club Inc.	Community Centre/Daycare Replacement	Child Welfare, Youth Development, Family Well-being	65,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
Delta Beach Association	Court Resurface/pickleball install	Physical Fitness and Health;	30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Portage Oddfellows Lodge #3	Accessibility Washrooms	Social Services	25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Ptg. Local Immigration Partnership	Diwali Event	Arts and Cultural	4,025.00	
Children's Hospital Foundation of Manaitoba	Baby Leo Hybrid Incubator	Child Welfare, Youth Development, Family Well-being	27,242.00	\$ 27,242.00
Portage Friendship Centre	Women's Cultural Group	Arts and Cultural	5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Children's Rehabilitation Foundation	Adapted Equipment Program	Child Welfare, Youth Development, Family Well-being	3,579.00	\$ 3,579.00
St. Marks Community Club	Revitalization Project	Other Activities or Facilities of a Charitable Nature	11,833.66	\$ 11,833.66
Family Resource Centre	AED	Child Welfare, Youth Development, Family Well-being	1,716.96	\$ 1,716.96
United Way	Smart Technology for Office	Social Services	4,490.00	\$ 4,490.00
Portage Regional Economic Development Inc.	Socio-Economic Impact Assessment	Social Services	15,000.00	
Portage Handivan	Building Upgrade	Medical Services	72,006.25	
Portage Learning & Literacy	PLLC's TLC Daycare Expansion	Child Welfare, Youth Development, Family Well-being	5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Herman Prior Activity Centre	Yoga Chairs	Physical Fitness and Health;	1,050.00	\$ 1,050.00
PLPSD Fort la Reine School	Family Room	Child Welfare, Youth Development, Family Well-being	2,469.76	\$ 2,469.76
Prairie Fusion Arts & Entertainment	Venue Enhancement Project	Other Activities or Facilities of a Charitable Nature	3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00
			<b>285,039.77</b>	<b>\$ 164,008.52</b>

**Name of organization: Child & Family Services of Central Manitoba Foundation Inc.**

**Background of Organization:** The Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba Foundation supports four "Chance 2" programs- "Chance 2 Camp". "Chance 2 Play". "Chance 2 Grow", and "Chance 2 Learn". Participation in the activities associated with these programs gives children the opportunity to challenge themselves and their abilities, helping to build self-confidence and self-worth. We believe these experiences are an important investment in the future of our children and our communities, offering lessons far too important to lose because of financial circumstances.

**Project Description:** I would love to have some better marketing signage to better advertise what our organization is all about. The "Retractable Roll Up Banners " -they would stand out at our events and fundraisers and that's what we need. Just more up to date signage. We hold a couple of BBQ fundraisers a year and attend different events for fundraising for our Chance 2 Programs. We also always must go and borrow tents from staff or other businesses and it's hard to do because they really don't want to borrow out their tents very willingly.

**Amount requested: \$5,500.00**

**Amount recommended: \$5,500.00**

**Comments:** The committee was undecided about this project at first because they have some CFSCM has quite a bit of money in their endowment, but upon further review, we discovered that their fund cannot be used for operations.

**Name of organization: Portage Service for Seniors**

**Background of Organization:** Portage Service for Seniors provides services that assist older adults in transportation, socialization, nutrition, and safety needs. A major focus of our program is both congregate meals at seniors' apartments and our Meals on Wheels program.

**Project Description:** We have limited space for storing donations in our freezers. We are requesting funds so that we can purchase a commercial dehydrator so we can preserve bulk amounts of produce donations in a shelf stable and more sustainable way. The vacuum sealer will allow us to extend the freezer life of donated goods and save us space in our freezers. A commercial grade dehydrator and vacuum sealer will allow us to process donations efficiently and will assist greatly with proper storage and ensure zero waste of donated food. We are currently serving more than 1500 meals per month through congregate delivery and meals on wheels format. Better and more efficient equipment will allow us to continue to preserve food which allows us to prepare delicious and nutritious meals to our elderly and disabled populations, which are so deserving.

**Amount requested: \$2,527.14**

**Amount recommended: \$2,527.14**

**Comments:** The committee felt that because they provided meals for so many seniors, they wanted to fund this project.

**Name of organization: Oakville Community Club Inc.**

**Background of Organization:** The Oakville Community Inc is the umbrella organization within our community that owns, operates, and ensures the long-term viability of the cultural and sports venues within the community for the general well-being of all community residents. These venues include the Community Hall, Arena, Curling Rink, and Morrisdon Sports Park. Each venue has a volunteer board that oversees its day-to-day operation and maintenance as well as setting user fees that cover those costs. Any community member can access these facilities through sporting user fees or rental fees. Our venues are not owned by the municipal government and have no full-time employees.

**Project Description:** Our project will see the replacement of this building with a new structure of similar size with 21st century insulation and green energy technology (geothermal). Located beside our existing ice facilities, the new structure will also house a new 40 space daycare center. This is a much-needed infrastructure item for the entire Portage plains area. Combining these two goals into one project offers some cost savings over having individual buildings. Together the dual purpose of this building aligns with our key part of our mission statement; "to promote and support cultural and sporting activities in community owned facilities". Construction began in May 2023 and is on track to be completed by May of 2024. Going forward the Childcare Centre will be self-supporting through fees and annual operating grants from the province. The Community Centre will earn rent from the Childcare Centre as well as rental fees from events.

**Amount requested: \$65,000.00**

**Amount recommended: \$35,000.00**

**Comments:** The committee was torn by this because we have contributed to them in the past but do feel it is a good project.

**Name of organization: Delta Beach Association**

**Background of Organization:** The Delta Beach Association (DBA) represents the people of Delta Beach and surrounding area. We are a non-profit whose goal is to advance the use of Delta Beach as a recreational area for all to enjoy. There are no fees to be a member, it is run by volunteers and is funded through taxes through the RM of Portage and through fundraising efforts.

**Project Description:** The DBA owns a parcel of land which has a fenced court area. The area was severely damaged by the floods of 2011. Our plan is to rehabilitate this area to provide athletic options for organized sports as well as individual use by people of all ages. Building a suitable court can cost a lot of money and so we are breaking the project down into phases. So far, we have cleaned up the existing court concrete pad and put-up new basketball hoops (2), purchased a temporary pickleball net and also a couple of hockey nets so that the space could be used. We have also cleaned up all the old and dangerous play equipment and installed a volleyball court, new swing set and merry-go-round. The construction of the picnic shelter is underway. We hope to use this space to host other organized activities etc. and give people a place in the shade to sit and visit while using the facilities. Our last phase is to repair the court area and fix some of the landscaping. Delta Beach is a popular spot for so many to visit in the summer months. We hope for the project to be self-sustaining once complete and continue to have a green team summer staff person to take care of the grounds.

**Amount requested: \$30,000.00**

**Amount recommended: \$30,000.00**

**Comments:** The committee liked this project and supported it because Delta seems to be rebuilding after the flood as well, once done, these are open to the public. Many Delta residents drive to Portage to play pickleball.

**Name of organization: Portage Oddfellows Lodge#3**

**Background of Organization:** The mandate and purpose is to provide activities and support for all the people in the community including seniors, people with disabilities, indigenous, new Canadians and all in need of support. The services our organization provides: meals, social activities, bingo and card games, vaccination clinics and much more.

**Project Description:** The current washroom facilities are not accessible for anyone who uses a wheelchair or walker. They are narrow and the doors are not wide enough, there is no change table in them for young parents. There are no grab bars and the toilets are too low. The plan is to renovate the two current bathrooms making them accessible and bringing them up to current building code. As well as add one complete accessible family bathroom beside the two present ones. Everyone who visits/uses this facility will benefit from this renovation. If we can get all the funds in place to complete this project we would like to start in December of this year and it should not take more than 6 weeks to complete it.

**Amount requested: \$25,000.00**

**Amount recommended: \$25,000.00**

**Comments:** The committee were all in favor of this project.



## **Name of organization: Portage Local Immigration Partnership**

**Background of Organization:** The Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) is a community-based initiative aimed at streamlining and enhancing the integration of newcomers into the social fabric of Portage la Prairie. Established to foster collaboration among local stakeholders, LIP works to identify and address the unique challenges faced by immigrants and refugees. Funding for LIP primarily comes from governmental grants, with additional support from local businesses and community donations. Our members include a diverse array of community organizations, local government agencies, educational institutions, and private sector partners committed to creating a welcoming environment for newcomers. Membership is open to any organization aligned with our mission and goals. While there are no fees to join, members are expected to actively participate in LIP initiatives and contribute to the community's development. By bringing together a wide range of perspectives and resources, LIP aims to make Portage la Prairie a more inclusive and vibrant community for all its residents.

**Project Description:** Scheduled for one evening on November 4th, the Diwali event is open to everyone and is expected to attract 200-300 attendees from various backgrounds. The celebration will feature traditional Indian performances, food, and activities that provide an enriching cultural experience. By hosting this event, we aim to create a platform for the Indian ethnocultural community to share their heritage and traditions, thereby fostering mutual respect and understanding among all community members. As for future funding, PLIP is committed to helping formalize the Indian ethnocultural community as an organized entity. This will enable them to apply for hosting grants and other financial resources, ensuring the sustainability of such cultural events in the years to come.

**Amount requested: \$4,025.00**

**Amount recommended: 0**

**Comments:** The committee rejected this project because CFPD does not fund one-time projects or operating costs.

## **Name of organization: The Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba**

**Background of Organization:** The mission of the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba (the Foundation) is to improve the health of children everywhere, by inspiring our community to support excellence in child health care and child health research. The Foundation's goal is to make a difference in the lives of sick and injured children by funding specialized equipment and patient support programs at HSC Winnipeg Children's Hospital, as well as life-saving pediatric research at the Children's Hospital Institute of Manitoba (CHRIM). Since 1971, with incredible donor support, the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba has raised more than \$175 million to help sick and injured children from Manitoba, Northwestern Ontario, and Nunavut.

**Project Description:** The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) has a number of incubators that are approximately 15 years old and will need to be replaced. The NICU needs two new Baby Leos immediately. Baby Leo Hybrid Incubators have cutting edge technology and offer the best possible care for the tiniest, most vulnerable babies. These new incubators provide optimal thermoregulation for premature babies in open care, closed care, and transition. Additionally, by keeping babies at optimal temperature, it makes it easier for clinicians to provide care with strategic access points, and protect babies as they grow, making our medical teams' workflow easier with quick and comfortable access to the baby. Baby Leo Hybrid Incubators also have sound technology so caregivers can record voices, stories, or songs to provide comfort to babies. Approximately 10% of babies born in Manitoba need the NICU. More than 1,500 babies stay in NICU annually (approx. 72% from Winnipeg, 23% from the rest of Manitoba, 5% from Northwestern Ontario and Nunavut).

**Amount requested: \$27,242.00**

**Amount recommended: \$27,242.00**

**Comments:** The committee was in favor of this project because almost 40,000 families a year from the Southern Health region use HSC Children's Hospital.

## **Name of organization: The Portage la Prairie Friendship Centre**

**Background of Organization:** The Portage Friendship Centre is a resource Centre for urban indigenous people and anyone else who can benefit from our services. We provide: Child development programming for ages 0-12 Youth Centre Drop in ages 12-24 Employment & Training Insight Mentoring Program Subsidized Housing Portage Friendship Centre Woman's Cultural Group - Home of the Happy Eagle Singers and Women's hand drum group We also host public events that engage the community for cultural and seasonal events. Our clients are the public anyone who requires our services regardless of background with focus on urban indigenous. Our membership fees for anyone under 55 years of age is \$2.00 annually and a free lifetime membership for ages 55+ We are funded Provincially and Federally with funding received primarily through Manitoba Association of Friendship Centre's (MAC)

**Project Description:** Portage Friendship Centre's Woman's Cultural Group. Teaching the importance as women in our families and our communities. Our desire to heal ourselves, our families and our communities can be achieved by bringing opportunities for our women to re-connect with their culture. Some of our plans include: Ribbon skirt-making sessions, Drum-making with the intent to sing in our community, this will provide healing for ourselves and our community while ensuring that these healing songs and prayers are never forgotten, Sweat lodge ceremonies for cleansing and strengthening, Full moon ceremonies where we call on grandmother moon to heal our minds, bodies and spirits to help us be the very best we can be for all those who rely on us and bringing our healing songs to the community by sharing our songs at cultural and community events. Cultural teachings for those seeking to re-connect with their culture and traditional activities like berry picking, medicine gathering, processing and preserving and learning to identify wild edibles and medicines. we will continue this programming with Fundraising and continued applications for funding from various sources.

**Amount requested: \$5,000.00**

**Amount recommended: \$5,000.00**

**Comments:** The committee all really liked this project and thought it would be great for the community.

## **Name of organization: Children's Rehabilitation Foundation**

**Background of Organization:** Children's Rehabilitation Foundation's (CRF) mission is to raise funds to improve the lives of children and youth from birth to 21 who access services through the Rehabilitation Centre for Children. The Centre supports children with physical and/or developmental disabilities in Manitoba and surrounding areas (including Nunavut and NW Ontario) in achieving their goals. Our shared vision is for all children to receive the support required to realize their abilities and enhance their potential. We are dedicated to helping children and youth with disabilities live as independently as possible. Through the generosity of donors, the Foundation invests in essential inclusive programs, services, leading-edge technology, and specialized/adapted equipment to enable children and youth to actively participate in their communities.

**Project Description:** The Adapted Equipment Program plays a crucial role in improving quality of life and the ability for children with disabilities to reach their full potential. In fiscal 2022/23, there is no government funding to support this vital program. Currently, there is a request wait-list of 25 mobility devices, 20 communication devices, and 3 sensory devices totaling close to \$140,000. CRF serves Manitoba and seeks \$3579 in funding from the Community Foundation of Portage and District to provide a chill-out-chair to a 12-year-old girl in Portage La Prairie. NT has complex medical needs, is nonverbal, and lacks mobility. The chill-out-chair is crucial for maintaining her health and comfort while she awaits six spinal surgeries and leg surgery. Delays in receiving adapted equipment can take six-twelve months and profoundly impact on a child's well-being. This is a one-time purchase.

**Amount requested: \$3,579.00**

**Amount recommended: \$3,579.00**

**Comments:** The committee was torn about this project because they felt it might open the flood gates but because this is for a Portage girl, they decided to approve it.

**Name of organization: St. Marks Community Club**

**Background of Organization:** We are a Community Club in a small Metis community in the RM of Portage La Prairie. Our mission is to move forward in a positive and healthy manner to support the social and cultural wellbeing of the community and its families. We look after the community grounds and structures, clean and repair the buildings, look after the yards, pick up garbage and cut the grass. We host community/family events and fund raisers.

**Project Description:** We are revitalizing our Community Hall to make it more useful to the community. We have tackled this project from the top down to complete the project without being overwhelmed by the enormity of it. We have revitalized the existing building while keeping it's 98-year-old charm. To date we have done our own fundraising and also applied for Grants. We received 2 grants from CFPD and one from Whitehorse Plains Community Futures. Our plan was to revitalize the hall, so it was usable again. We have a new roof, new door, new windows, refurbished foundation, footing and stringer, new floor without the final covering. We also have new stairs, a ramp and outdoor biffy. What we have left is gravel around all sides of the hall to aid with proper drainage, eaves troughing, some repair to the wood part of the outside of the hall about 250 sq ft which includes painting. We also have all the wiring to replace and some extra outlets to install. We would like to do new flooring, gravel, eaves troughing and wooden area over the entry way in the next year. This will help protect the work already done. Everyone who wishes to use the hall will benefit from these improvements. So right now, there is approximately 100 people. In the future we intend to keep on with fundraising activities and applying for grants when possible. We hope if we keep the building as intact and original as possible, we will be able one day to become a heritage site.

**Amount requested: \$11,833.66**

**Amount recommended: \$11,833.66**

**Comments:** The committee all really like this project and because this grant will finalize their renovations and they will then be able to use the hall, they approved it.

**Name of organization: Family Resource Centre**

**Background of Organization:** Vision: To be a support for all families in Portage la Prairie and surrounding area

Mission: We do this by:

- Providing a safe and welcoming place for all
- Empowering families to enhance their wellness
- Providing meaningful and educational programming
- Bringing families together
- Being a source of trusted information

Our scope is large and flexible to allow us to meet the needs of families in our community. From pregnancy and breastfeeding, through child development and parenting we aim to be educators and a place of support for families as they navigate their parenting journey. We also provide opportunities to families in the area of wellness through nutrition, recreation, mental health and arts & culture programming and services.

We are primarily funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada's CAPC Program, ROC and United Way but they only cover just over half of our annual budget. We rely on grants and donations to help us provide additional programs and services and to grow and accomplish our strategic plan initiatives.

**Project Description:** We would like to purchase and have an AED on sight. This endeavor would benefit all who enter our community space and those around us in the event of a cardiac episode. If we are successful in the funding of this one-time capital project, we would look to purchase the unit right away. Our staff are all trained to operate an AED so there would be no further time needed for the project.

**Amount requested: \$1,716.96**

**Amount recommended: \$1,716.96**

**Comments:** The committee approved this project because it is ideal to have an AED unit onsite at this agency.

## **Name of organization: United Way**

**Background of Organization:** Our organization, inspired by United Way's vision and mission, is a non-profit dedicated to fostering inclusive and thriving communities. Our purpose is to empower individuals from all backgrounds to reach their full potential and create strong, resilient communities. We achieve this through a range of services, including social programs, education initiatives, and community development projects. We are primarily funded through a combination of private donations, corporate sponsorships, and government grants. Our diverse group of members and clients consists of volunteers, community leaders, local businesses, and individuals seeking assistance and opportunities to give back to their communities. The United Way's principles of trust, integrity, respect, inclusivity, and transparency.

**Project Description:** Our project entails the acquisition and installation of a smart board and camera system in the boardroom at the United Way in Central Plains office. The primary beneficiaries of this project will be our dedicated staff and volunteer committee members, who will utilize these tools to facilitate more interactive and effective meetings, presentations, and collaborative discussions. Additionally, the local community will benefit as we plan to open the boardroom to community groups, non-profits, and educational institutions to use this advanced technology for their meetings and events for small fee for upkeep of equipment. This technology will enhance collaboration, communication, and productivity for our staff, volunteers, and the wider community. The Smart Board will facilitate interactive presentations and meetings, while the Owl camera will provide high-quality video conferencing capabilities. This technology will ensure collaborative communication between the Brandon and Portage UW teams.

**Amount requested: \$4,490.00**

**Amount recommended: \$4,490.00**

**Comments:** The committee felt that because the United Way is an agency that is needed and used by many other agencies and because they are starting up again in Portage, it is important to support them.

## **Name of organization: Portage Regional Economic Development**

### **Background of Organization:**

Portage Regional Economic Development (PRED) was formed in 2013, following the dissolution of a larger regional partnership under the banner of Central Plains Inc. with a mission to foster an environment with is attractive to investment and growth for both the City and Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie, respectively. The scope of the department's work includes liaison with investment interest from concept through to approval by the applicable Council, as well as ongoing support and liaison throughout the life of the investment within the jurisdiction.

The mandate of the Portage Regional Economic Development is to create an environment that successfully attracts new investment, retains, and expands current business for the entire community for the City of Portage la Prairie and the RM of Portage la Prairie whilst leveraging the strong regional approach of the two municipalities working together in collaboration.

### **Project Description:**

The project is a comprehensive socio-economic impact assessment for the Region of Portage la Prairie. Our organization intends to conduct an in-depth study to evaluate the effects of recent economic growth, including developments in agriculture, manufacturing, other industrial growth, on the social and economic conditions in the region. The primary goal is to understand the impact of this growth on the region's demographics, labor force, income distribution, education, health, housing, transportation, and more.

The beneficiaries of this project are not limited to a specific group but encompass the entire community of Portage la Prairie.

**Amount requested: \$15,000.00**

**Amount recommended: 0**

**Comments:** The committee was not in favor of this project for many reasons but mainly felt that PRED has an Economic Development Officer that should be doing this work.



**Name of organization: Portage la Prairie Handivan**

**Background of Organization:** The Portage la Prairie Handivan INC provides a safe and accessible transportation service, serving our community of Portage la Prairie as well as the Rural Municipality. We are the only service that provides transportation that is wheelchair accessible. Our two buses 1, holding up to 14 people continues to run from and not limited to the hours of 7:15AM-4:00PM, 5 days a week. We provide service to our residents aged 55 and over as well anyone of any age who has mobility issues. We have the ability to provide on the same day with our second bus, the service to above mention clients, the opportunity to attend their appointments to other cities and communities. We are available if needed on weekends. Handivan rates are applicable.

**Project Description:** The Portage la Prairie Handivan is located at 1015 Saskatchewan Ave West. For over 30 Years our years our buses were parked outside in a parking lot outside the local firehall in extreme elements. In the past our drivers sat in the buses in the firehall parking lot, with the van running to keep the van warm in the winter while waiting for their next trip, also the vans were very difficult to clean in the winter. Two and a half years ago I was able to rent a vacant carwash. Even though it was not heated it kept our vans out of the elements and better access for our drivers. Our intent is to buy the building at some point. The roof is leaking causing severe ice buildup in the bays floor where we store the vans resulting in a very unsafe environment during the Fall, Winter, and Spring thaw. Recently we were broken into through the windows of the tin doors and numerous items were stolen. One of our Drivers was in one of the bays at that time. We have a middle room between the 4 bays where the furnace and electrical room are located. We have 8 bay doors that all need replacing to make the building more secure and safe for our employees. Our priority is the following: total roof replacement, remove and replace with secure garage doors, replace the furnace in the small, locked room where we hold anything of value such as keys to the vans.

**Amount requested: \$72,006.25**

**Amount recommended: 0**

**Comments:** Because this is a rented space with no long term lease the committee was not in favor of this project.

## **Name of organization: Portage Learning & Literacy**

**Background of Organization:** The PLLC is a not-for-profit agency offering a diverse range of programs, including Mature Grade 12, Adult Literacy, on-site TLC Daycare, Skills Training and Work Experience Programs (for youth and for persons with disabilities), Employment Assistant Services, Money Management Training, and Settlement Services, including Language Training for newcomers to Canada. We also offer the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program during tax season, and we recently added a Food Security Initiative for our registered students and clients, and ID services to help people obtain government-issued identification, including official passport and PR card photos (for a small fee). We've been a vital part of the community for over 30 years, serving thousands of people (currently exceeding 2,300 individuals per year) who have come to us either independently or through referrals from other community and government agencies.

**Project Description:** It is well known that access to available childcare spots is a significant issue for many families living in Portage la Prairie and surrounding areas. The PLLC currently collaborates with the Province of Manitoba and Portage Daycare to offer fully subsidized on-site daycare for our adult learners attending classes at the PLLC, as well as for our newcomers attending ESL classes in the evenings. We also fill those spaces with children from members of the community to ensure that the daycare is fully utilized each day. Currently, we have only 15 spots available in our space; however, after consultations with the Childcare Coordinator for the Province of Manitoba, if we do some minor renovations to add a washroom, we will be able to expand our current childcare spots by 5, for a total of 20 spaces. This project will benefit the many learners, newcomers, and families who currently access the daycare, as well as the new families who can now find daycare in our community, for this year and years to come. We will also need to hire additional staff, which will have additional benefits for those individuals and the many local economic benefits that come with that.

**Amount requested: \$5,000.00**

**Amount recommended: \$5,000.00**

**Comments:** The committee felt this was an important project to fund as daycare spaces are needed in Portage.

## **Name of organization: Herman Prior Centre**

**Background of Organization:** The Herman Prior Activity Centre, a non-profit organization, is a place for seniors to meet and congregate in a centrally located fully accessible facility. The Centre was built by seniors for seniors in 1984 and continues to be a thriving hub of activity where seniors come to improve the quality of life for themselves and others. The Centre provides a "home away from home" for many seniors who are living alone and wish to be involved in the community as well as take an active part in their own mental and physical wellbeing. The Centre offers over 25 programs and activities weekly at very affordable rates. Some examples are congregate noon meal program, card games, billiards, floor curling, floor shuffleboard, pickleball, Tai Chi, line dancing, square dancing, resistance band, senior fitness and 3 types of yoga. Medical equipment is available for rent, numerous volunteer opportunities which are tailored to accommodate all levels of ability.

**Project Description:** One of the most popular activities that the Centre offers is the Chair Yoga (seated and standing), Hatha Yoga and Chair Yoga (seated only). There are anywhere from 15 to 30 senior ladies that attend the Chair Yoga weekly. One of the barriers to this program is the lack of suitable chairs. Currently the Centre has 30 "special" chairs that are used for the congregate meal program as well as the Yoga classes. These chairs are straight backed and cushioned for comfort but very heavy to move. The weight of these chairs poses a safety issue as not all the attendees have the strength to move these chairs. Moving the chairs back and forth requires time and effort, wasting valuable class time. With the growing number of Yoga attendees, this is becoming a major problem with not having enough suitable chairs for everyone. The Centre would like to purchase 35 high-back upholstered & padded metal folding chairs that would be used only for activities/programs that require special seating.

Amount requested: \$1,050.00

Amount recommended: \$1,050.00

**Comments:** The committee approved this project as it provided wellbeing for seniors, and it was a small ask.

**Name of organization: PLPSD For Fort la Reine School**

**Background of Organization:** Fort la Reine School, located within the Portage la Prairie School Division, is a Kindergarten to Grade Seven school with a student population of 194. Most of our student population is comprised of students with declared aboriginal status. We also have several newcomer families. Many of our students come from single-parent, low-income homes as well. Our school provides support in several ways to both students and their families/caregivers.

**Project Description:** We hope to create a welcoming space in our school for families/caregivers and students to utilize. We plan to use one of the office spaces connected to our Breakfast Room and purchase furniture and decor to create a comfortable place for our school community. This 'Family Room' will be used to meet with caregivers/families and work toward developing positive relationships and build connections between home and school. It will also provide a quiet space for students who require some individual time during the school day. All families and students in our school community may benefit from this project. It is anticipated the room can be completed within a few months and will have a lasting benefit to our school community. This is a one-time expenditure to create this space. No further funds will be required.

**Amount requested: \$2469.76**

**Amount recommended: \$2,469.76**

**Comments:** The committee approved this project as it was the school division's priority for this grant cycle.

**Name of organization: Prairie Fusion Arts & Entertainment**

**Background of Organization:** We are an exciting and vibrant hub with a focus on the arts while simultaneously being dedicated to teaching, sharing, and celebrating artistic expression through programs, performances, and exhibitions. Our programming and performances are chosen to reflect our unique position as the sole center for the arts in our region. PFAE strives to bring a wide variety of performances and arts education to our audience, to ensure we are providing accessible and diverse opportunities to the public, while maintaining affordable fees to eliminate as many socioeconomic barriers as possible. We are funded by three levels of government, as well as various other grants and funders, in addition to our organization's income through ticket sales, class registration and primarily rentals. We have a membership rate and are revising the current parameters around membership options to include individual, family, artist and non-profit options in order to better serve our community and its citizens. The memberships currently range from \$30-\$80.

**Project Description:** The project consists of two purchases to benefit both the theatre, gallery, and atrium as well as a second purchase to benefit the visual arts/pottery program. We plan to purchase some bar height tables (and tablecloths) to enhance the usage of the spaces we currently have as both a benefit for our events, as well as all rental events as well. These tables will increase the social aspects of many functions and as they are easy to move, we will have the ability to utilize them in a variety of spaces (Atrium, Gallery and Theatre) to broaden the types and areas in which we have accessible for our events. As our funding becomes more limited, rental income will become a critical part of funding our free community programming and reduced rates for our programming. The purchase of locked cabinets in our visual arts classroom will allow us a space to organize and make accessible the art supplies required for programs and events.

**Amount requested: \$3,600.00**

**Amount recommended: \$3,600.00**

**Comments:** The committee felt this was a good project since they just updated their foyer.