

Grant Committee Report & Application Summaries

## **April 2022 Applications**

### **Grants Committee:**

Blair Geisel (Chair), Jody Fletcher, Winnie Pauch, Tom Wilson, Lisa Kristof, Diane Van Aert, Bev Gradidge & Mandy Dubois (Executive Director)



## Spring 2022

A total of 23 grant applications were received requesting \$411,836.52 and CFPD had allocated \$115,000 for the Spring Grant Cycle. The Grants Committee met on April 12<sup>th</sup> to review & discuss the applications received as well as the priorities of the committee in 2022. All application documents were made available to the committee on a new Grant Portal on our website for secure access.

The Grants Committee discussed some priorities that need to be addressed outside of the grant review meetings including the ongoing Community Assessment project, a formal evaluation tool to assist committee members in assessing the applications as well as new approach to meeting and discussing the applications in the fall.

Among the 23 applications, 7 of those applications were from within the Portage la Prairie School Division for a total request of \$ 311,111.44. Due to rising number of requests from the School Division the committee feels a meeting with members of the Division Staff and/or School Board is required to determine a better process for all schools to access much needed funds from the foundation but in a more prioritized manner.

The following report from the grants committee includes the details on all applications evaluated as well as the 7 projects the committee is recommending for funding totaling \$113,750.

<b>FILE No.</b>	<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Requested \$</b>	<b>Recommended \$</b>
2022-01(S)	Ecole Crescentview School	Purchase of classroom audio systems	Education	\$10,236.80	\$10,250
2022-02(S)	Portage Pickleball Club	Repurpose of North Tennis Courts Island Park	Physical Fitness and Health;	\$10,000.00	\$10,000
2022-03(S)	Portage la Prairie School Division	ECVS/EAMS walking path for accessibility	Physical Fitness and Health;	\$189,911.92	\$0
2022-04(S)	Portage la Prairie Regional Library	Teen Space	Child, Youth, Family	\$2,260.00	\$2,260
2022-05(S)	Centennial Community Club Inc.	BDO Arena Ice Surface & Interior Upgrades	Physical Fitness and Health;	\$14,400.00	\$0
2022-06(S)	Holiday Avenue Project	Avenue Lamp Post Wreaths	Arts and Cultural	\$5,856.08	\$5,900
2022-07(S)	La Verendrye School	LVS Grows Phase 2	Environment	\$799.68	\$0
2022-08(S)	Portage la Prairie Assisted Living Corp	AED Machine	Medical Services	\$2,060.00	\$0

<b>FILE No.</b>	<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Requested \$</b>	<b>Recommended \$</b>
2022-09(S)	Family Resource Centre	Community Training	Child, Youth, Family	\$3,850.00	\$0
2022-10(S)	Family Resource Centre	Amalgamation	Child, Youth, Family	\$10,391.00	\$10,400
2022-11(S)	Portage Junk Yard Dogs Inc.	JYD Activity Park	Physical Fitness and Health;	\$10,000.00	\$10,000
2022-12(S)	Portage Service for Seniors	Dishwasher Installation	Social Services	\$2,128.00	\$0
2022-13(S)	Portage Service for Seniors	Seniors Resource Guide	Social Services	\$1,565.12	\$0
2022-14(S)	Ecole Arthur Meighen School	EAMS Playground	Physical Fitness and Health;	\$50,000.00	\$35,000
2022-15(S)	Portage Learning & Literacy Centre	Envision Diversity: Newcomer Youth Film Workshop	Arts and Cultural	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
2022-16(S)	Fort la Reine Museum	Museum Tables & Chairs	Arts and Cultural	\$2,240.00	\$2,240
2022-17(S)	Yellowquill School	Yellowquill Family Room Furnishing	Education	\$10,720.00	\$0
2022-18(S)	Central Plains Aquatic Club	Technology Update	Physical Fitness and Health;	\$2,632.88	\$2,600
2022-19(S)	Herman Prior Activity Centre	Purchase of Bose Sound System & Accessories	Social Services	\$5,492.00	\$5,500
2022-20(S)	Youth for Christ	Upgrades/Spring Break Event	Child, Youth, Family	\$4,000.00	\$4,000
2022-21(S)	Portage Collegiate Institute	PCI Teen Resource Room	Education	\$47,693.04	\$0
2022-22(S)	Fort la Reine School	Fort Families	Education	\$1,750.00	\$1,750
2022-23(S)	Visions Of Independence	Social Enterprise Program Expansion	Social Services	\$8,850.00	\$8,850
				<b>\$411,836.52</b>	<b>\$113,750</b>

**Name of organization:** Ecole Crescentview School 2022-01(S)

**Background of Organization:** Ecole Crescentview school is a K-4 dual track (English and French Immersion) school. There are 465 students enrolled at this school. We have 32 teachers and 30 support staff. Due to the high enrollment, we continue to be challenged with large class sizes, limited space and significant needs. Foundations for Learning is a divisional program within our school, for students with profound needs. Our school's mission statement is Together, we build lifelong learners and responsible citizens. Our purpose is education and there are no fees to join.

**Project Description:** Learning in the classroom, greatly depends on listening and classrooms have become challenging environments for students to hear and for teachers to be heard. We have a great range of challenges in our classrooms which include student specific needs, distance from teacher, high numbers of students in classrooms, outside activities, hallway traffic, announcements and noise from the heating and ventilation systems. Speech and language needs of primary aged children and the need for clarity when learning a second language are a high priority for us. Covid-19 has created more challenges than ever before, due to poor proximity, masking restrictions and constant disruptions in learning and attendance. As a school, we are looking at purchasing audio systems for our classrooms. Our goal is to create more focused auditory spaces for learning with increase student engagement by giving students a voice using an audio system. Our proposal requests to obtain \$10,236.80 in funding to equip four classrooms with the "Front Row Juno" system. We piloted this system for the month of February and have seen huge improvements in attentiveness with students. Listening has become effortless and we know that hearing and understanding material presented or being taught is critical to student learning. Also critical, as well as engaging, is allowing students to share their thinking and learning with their classmates. The student microphone allows this skill to be practiced efficiently and effectively.

**Amount requested:** \$10,236.80

**Amount recommended: \$10,250.00**

**Comments:**

Although the Committee felt it hard to prioritize all of the School Division's requests, it felt the number of students this project impacted was substantial enough to merit funding. Four classrooms, approximately 100 students, will benefit from this technology annually.

**Name of organization:** Portage Pickleball Club      2022-02(S)

**Background of Organization:** The Portage Pickleball Club is a volunteer driven organization that provides the opportunity for people in the community to gather and play pickleball together. The club grew organically when six years ago, five people experienced North America's fastest growing sport in other communities, and brought the sport to this city. It has since expanded to over fifty members for the 2021-2022 season. The club organizes court times, pickleball nets, and provides beginner paddles and balls. Members consist of all ages and abilities, but the sport is especially attractive to seniors looking to increase their activity levels. Play is not league based, but round robin format with skilled and beginner players playing together. The club has four organized play times available to members, offering both morning and evening time slots each week. The Members tend to purchase their own paddle soon after joining, and the club collects yearly membership fees of \$175 per player. Members are required to join Pickleball Manitoba and Pickleball Canada for both insurance reasons, and to help the sport grow provincially and nationally. The Portage Pickleball club is officially an affiliated club with Pickleball Manitoba. The Club is inclusive to any and all genders, races, ages and abilities, and all are welcome to play. The club has drawn members from the neighboring communities of Oakville, the RM of Portage, MacGregor as well as the city of Portage la Prairie.

**Project Description:** The Portage Pickleball club would like to create 6 permanent outdoor pickleball courts within the fenced area of the existing north tennis courts on Island Park in Portage la Prairie. This would entail fixing any cracks or deficiencies in the surface, installing 6 permanent nets and posts, and repainting the surface and adding in court lines specifically for pickleball. The two existing tennis nets would remain as court dividers between the courts. Funding permitting the club would like to install chain link barriers between courts as it is less damaging to the playing surface to do this all at once. The south tennis courts would remain in place for tennis use, which the Portage Tennis Club has agreed to as well as the City of Portage la Prairie. This would provide a publicly available court surface to be used by the general public, the club's members, visitors to the city as well as a facility capable of holding club and provincial tournaments, and MB +55 Games events.

**Amount requested:** \$10,000.00

**Amount recommended:** \$10,000

**Comments:**

After a previous grant application, the grants committee discussed our concerns and made a number of suggestions to the Pickle Ball Club. The committee was very pleased to see all the work the Pickle Ball Club put into this application, and this, along with the popularity of the sport led the committee to recommend the full amount of the request.

**Name of organization:** Portage la Prairie School Division 2022-03(S)

**Background of Organization:** Our purpose is to provide, or make provision for, appropriate schooling opportunities for students eligible to attend the Portage la Prairie School Division. Our mission is to recognize the individual needs and potential of our students and to provide these students with the opportunity to undertake schooling experiences that will contribute to the development of their full potential. School experiences will give consideration to the future demands that will be placed upon society by our rapidly changing world. PLPSD is funded by the provincial government and typically through municipal school taxes – municipal taxes are longer the way schools are/will be funded (funds are currently frozen) and will be phased out in the near future. Our stakeholders include all citizens in the Portage la Prairie School Division catchment area. We provide schooling from kindergarten to grade twelve and also provide adult education.

**Project Description:** Ecole Crescentview School and Ecole Arthur Meighen School have partnered on this project in hopes of building an accessible and interconnecting path on both school grounds for all children, staff and our community. We have several students within both schools who use wheelchairs or have mobility challenges. In addition, we have a staff member who is in a wheelchair. This project aspires to provide an inclusive and accessible space for everyone. This path will promote activity, health and wellness which will benefit all. This project has been a focus for the last three years and fundraising has begun. The challenge is the pace of the fundraising is far off of our ability to finish the project. Over the last five years, parents who have children in wheelchairs have asked both principals how they could support play and accessibility for their children. This question is difficult as the funds were simply not there to build adequate structures or put down paths. Both schools are currently limited with very little space to take students for walks. In the winter, our students who have limitations, often stay inside and walk or bike the hallways. We dream of a day where our students could push our students in wheelchairs all around our playgrounds. We dream of a day where all children could easily reach our play structures without barriers. We dream of a day where our staff members who have disabilities could easily supervise all students without barriers.

**Amount requested:** \$189,911.92

**Amount recommended:** \$0.00

**Comments:**

Due to the large amount of funds being requested for this project the committee had no choice but to recommend no funding. The high dollar request of this application as well as the high number of applications from the School Division will be addressed at a future meeting.

**Name of organization:** Portage la Prairie Regional Library 2022-04(S)

**Background of Organization:** The Portage la Prairie Regional Library is a non-profit public library. We provide our community with free access to the internet, computer services, as well as reading and learning materials. We house a large selection of historical and heritage documents in different formats for patron use. We facilitate programs for a wide range of community members, from children to seniors of all backgrounds and diversities.

**Project Description:** The library would like to introduce unstructured program time in the evenings for teens, one day a week, with the potential for growth. This would be established in our Multi Purpose Room within the year. The teens would have access to traditional library offerings, as well as dedicated technology, gaming devices, art supplies and informational material on 2SLGBTQA, addiction, safer sex, and mental health resources. Since the library is partnering with Communities Building Youth Futures (CBYF), to make laptops, tablets and other technological devices available for youth to borrow, this program would entice teens to use those devices with the benefit of our free high speed wifi. Teens in the community would benefit greatly from having an area dedicated to them. With the library being in a central location in our community, and its proximity to the high school, it makes sense to have a safe space dedicated for them in the library. We hope to create a teen advisory board to help plan and facilitate fundraising projects for future developments to their space. After the initial cost, much of the minimal funding to sustain the space will be budgeted for through our operational funds. Additionally, CBYF has set aside funding to upgrade and maintain the digital lending library for the next several years.

**Amount requested:** \$2,260.00

**Amount recommended:** \$2,260.00

**Comments:**

The Grants committee appreciates the initiative from the library to create a safe space for teens in our community, which is much needed. The collaboration with the Community Building Futures group to have accessible technology for the space also makes it favorable for funding from the foundation.

**Name of organization:** Centennial Community Club Inc 2022-05(S)

**Background of Organization:** Our mandate is to provide a third ice surface for the community in the winter and use of the west side of the building in the off season for various community purposes. Judo tournaments, summer camps, dry land training for ball, soccer, lacrosse, etc.) We also provide storage for recreational vehicles in the summer and winter on the east side.

**Project Description:** Repaint the exterior of the main entranceway to the arena to cover graffiti and improve the overall appearance of the structure.

Add additional LED light fixtures to the ice surface area to increase lightning to an acceptable level in an energy efficient manner.

**Amount requested:** \$14,400.00

**Amount recommended:** \$0.00

**Comments:**

Although the BDO Centre for the Community is a vital part of our community the Grants Committee was concerned with the lack of effort by the committee to obtain quotes for the project and felt the Foundation has already provided a large amount of funding to this group in the past. For these reasons the committee is recommending no funding for this project.



**Name of organization:** Holiday Avenue Project      2022-06(S)

**Background of Organization:** For the past two years a few friends have decorated the meridian containers on Saskatchewan Ave with evergreens and seasonal decor. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Because of this we have decided to expand our efforts. Our goal is to give our avenue a festive feel similar to a Hallmark Holiday movie. A committee has been formed and we will welcome new volunteers. A meeting with Nathan Peto has resulted in assistance from the city and support from Mayor Irvin Ferris. We are most excited about our "Go Big!" plans!

**Project Description:** The Holiday Avenue Project committee wishes to provide a festive feel to Sask. Ave next November. We would like to purchase commercial grade pre-lit artificial evergreen wreaths to hang on the black lamp posts. City employees will hang, remove and store the wreaths. The only additional expense will be incurred when more lamp posts are erected. Everyone walking or driving on the avenue, day or evening, will enjoy the festive feel....

**Amount requested:** \$5,856.08

**Amount recommended: \$5,800**

**Comments:**

The Grants committee discussed how they felt Saskatchewan Ave felt a little drab during the holiday season and this grant application was just a great, warm and fuzzy idea. The committee overwhelmingly liked this project and recommended it for full funding.

**Name of organization:** La Verendrye School 2022-07(S)

**Background of Organization:** La Verendrye School consists of approximately 363 students that live in the north end of Portage la Prairie. Our school provides education and a safe space for students to learn, explore, and grow. A large portion of our students come to school hungry or without equitable access to nutritious food. Many of the families in our catchment area do not have reliable access to vehicles, have large families to provide for, and the nearest grocery store is over 2 kilometers away. Our families live in a food desert and deserve equitable access to fresh produce. Our school offers food hampers, a breakfast program, a lunch program and cooking sessions with our guidance counsellor to help meet the needs of our students and families, but we believe that we can do more.

**Project Description:** Our goal is to create equitable access to fresh produce in the North end of Portage la Prairie, specifically in the neighbourhoods of La Verendrye and North Memorial School. In April 2021, we launched the first phase of LVS Grows with funding from Nutrients for Life and CFPD. Students grew their own fruit and vegetables from April to June and brought them home for the summer. We encountered some challenges during the first phase, such as inadequate space for growing fruits and vegetables in the classroom, a short growing season, difficulties monitoring the progress of the seedlings during the summer and an inability to access the LVS courtyard, where we had originally planned to build our garden boxes. In response to the challenges we faced last year, we ordered an indoor tower garden. The tower garden will extend our growing season, produce more food in a shorter amount of time and create more opportunities for students to try and grow different types of produce.

**Amount requested:** \$799.68

**Amount recommended:** \$0.00

**Comments:**

The grants committee was not impressed with the unfavorable results of the first grant provided to LVS for their garden project and for this reason recommends no additional funding for the project.

**Name of organization:** Portage la Prairie Assisted Living Corporation 2022-08(S)

**Background of Organization:** We are a registered charitable organization established for the purpose of providing assisted living in Portage la Prairie. Our new facility, Dufferin Villa, enables seniors to live independently for a longer period of time and keeping them out of personal care homes for as long as possible. These are people who need a bit of extra care and socialization, however they and/or their families feel they need a more secure living environment with extra assistance. We provide meals, weekly housekeeping and a Victoria Lifeline to each tenant. We also have a reduced rent option for those who demonstrate the need for assistance. We are funded through a CMHC mortgage, donations from people and organizations in the community and ongoing costs will be covered through rental payments from the tenants.

**Project Description:** The project will require purchasing and installing an AED machine in the lobby area of our facility for emergency purposes. Our project will benefit the residents in the facility, their family members and our staff knowing that it is there and readily available if required. The project will not take long to complete. It will be ordered and installed and then the staff will participate in a training program. Future funding (pad and battery replacements) will be covered as an organizational cost.

**Amount requested:** \$2,060.00

**Amount recommended:** \$0.00

**Comments:**

The committee discussed this application and after review of their financial statements and the amount of cash on hand the group has the committee felt they had enough funds available to purchase their own AED machine.

**Name of organization:** Family Resource Centre Training 2022-09(S)

**Background of Organization:**

Vision: To be a support for all families in Portage and surrounding area

Mission: We do this by:

- Providing a safe and welcoming place for all
- Bringing families together
- Providing meaningful and educational programming
- 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 wellness to getting proper identification we are here for the practical life supports. 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 are primarily funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada's CAPC Program they cover about half of our annual budget. We rely on grants and donations to help us provide the additional programs and services. Our members/clients are families in the community. We do not charge for any of services or programs.

**Project Description:** We want to train a staff member to provide training FREE in community through our organization and others. The courses we are interested in training someone to deliver are:

- Mental Health First Aid - teaches participants how recognize persons may be experience a decline in their mental well-being or a mental health or substance use crisis and how to assist individuals. Mental health is an area we can all do better in and the more we all know how to recognize and support each other the better off we will be as a greater community.
- Babysitter's Course - teaches children ages 11-15 the skills required to watch other children. For many babysitting is a first job and we want to support free opportunities to kids to receive this training.
- Stay Safe - teaches children ages 9-13 how to stay safe at home and be safe in community.

Training a trainer would be a one-time fee event. We will look to have a contract clause based on receiving this training in the employees' contract to keep it in community. In the event that is not possible we hope that by that point the true need and benefit is known that we can get multiple organizations to pool resources to train a new employee.

The FRC will cover the cost of staff time and travel to be trained. We are just seeking the course costs.

**Amount requested:** \$3,850.00

**Amount recommended:** \$0.00

**Comments:**

The committee considered both applications received from the Family Resource Centre and the fact they also just secured the \$10,000 grant from the 150 Women Who Care event and are recommending no funding for this project.

**Name of organization:** Family Resource Centre Amalgamation 2022-10(S)

**Background of Organization:**

Vision: To be a support for all families in Portage and surrounding area

Mission: We do this by:

- Providing a safe and welcoming place for all
- Bringing families together
- Providing meaningful and educational programming
- 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 wellness to getting proper identification we are here for the practical life supports. 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 are primarily funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada's CAPC Program they cover about half of our annual budget. We rely on grants and donations to help us provide the additional programs and services. Our members/clients are families in the community. We do not charge for any of services or programs.

**Project Description:** Both the ROK and FRC Boards are keen to pursue amalgamation. There is a cost to the process we are seeking funding for. In addition, some funds to integrate the amalgamation in terms of branding the outreach centre (ROK's currently location) to match the FRC and making it a safe and welcoming space. Our Boards have recognized that we are stronger together. There is significant overlap in what these two organizations have done in the past and where they both want to go. A formal amalgamation will ensure that what ROK is known for (recreational opportunities for kids, access to leisure, arts, culture) will be at the forefront. Both organizations want to see the outreach Centre be used for its intended purpose of reaching and supporting families in that area of town and the FRC has the resources and systems in place to better utilize that space as a satellite location. The costs we are asking for are one-time costs which will help us officially move forward as one organization. Our plan is to operate as 1 starting April 1, 2022 with the intent to complete the process and legally be one organization on April 1, 2023 to allow time to get all the moving pieces in order. ROK has been struggling the last few years to get in motion. This amalgamation plan will allow them a better structure and support to be able to focus on their core objectives. It also allows the FRC to provide a holistic approach to wellness for all families we work with and a single point of access for community.

**Amount requested:** \$10,391.00

**Amount recommended:** \$10,400

**Comments:**

The Foundation played a significant role in initiating the process of amalgamation with ROK and the Family Resource Centre after a number of duplications in services and requests for funding were identified. The committee is content to see the progress already made between the two organizations and fully supports this project.

**Name of organization:** Portage Junk Yard Dogs Inc. 2022-11(S)

**Background of Organization:** The Portage Junk Yard Dogs (JYD) provides facilities for year-round outdoor activities (cycling, hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing). The Club has developed 12 kms of single-track cycling, hiking and snowshoe trails along the Assiniboine River. JYD also grooms 7 km of traditional cross country ski trails on the Portage Golf Course. The Club operates a Kids of Mud (KOM) program, which teaches kids to ride and race mountain bikes. There were 31 youth in the 2021 KOM program. JYD is funded through the sale of memberships and currently has 570 members. Membership fees are \$40 for an individual and \$60 for a family. No fees will be charged to use the proposed Activity Park.

**Project Description:** Construct a multi-use outdoor activity park on the decommissioned Portage la Prairie landfill site that is open to the public free of charge. All trails and features are designed by a professional engineering and landscape architectural firm and will be constructed by a professional trail building company. In Phase 1 (2022) the biking trails and a cycling skills park will be constructed and the current tobogganing slope will be repaired making it safer. The bike park trails will link into the JYD's 12 km of single-track trail system along the Assiniboine River. The park will provide riding features (trails, berms, jumps, etc.) for beginner, intermediate and expert riders. These features will help develop a cyclists' skills, so they can confidently ride more difficult trails on the Canadian Shield in Eastern Manitoba and in the mountains of Western Canada. Phase 2 (2023) will include the construction of the accessible wilderness hiking trail, which goes through a wild habitat (woodlot and marsh) providing an excellent opportunity to view and be educated about the natural environment. No date has been set for Phase 3, construction of the picnic shelter/washroom facility. JYD estimates that there are more than 1,000 users each year on the current trail system. The construction of the bike park will more than double that number. Add to that the number of tobogganers and it's estimated that there will be up to 4000 users per year of the bike park, trails and toboggan run.

**Amount requested:** \$10,000.00

**Amount recommended:** \$10,000

**Comments:**

The committee is excited for this project and understands the impact it will have on accessible recreation in our community. The committee was unanimous in supporting this project for their full request and believes this is a project the Foundation needs to support.

**Name of organization:** Portage Service for Seniors Dishwasher 2022-12(S)

**Background of Organization:** Portage Service for Seniors provides services that assist older adults in maintaining an independent lifestyle. It is a charitable organization funded in part by Southern Health, Portage Plains United Way, and donations. Staff and volunteers are available to assist 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. Due to limited funding, we have not been able to recruit and retain casual replacement cooks. With funds on hand, we are hoping to train casual cooks and allow them regular hours so they remain interested and available.

**Project Description:** With pandemic restrictions coming to an end, we are ready to re-open congregate meals at Oaktree Towers. The dishwasher at Oaktree must be replaced. We obtained a replacement dishwasher and PSFS paid \$329.28 to cover the cost of removing the dishwasher from its old location and transporting it to Oaktree Towers. Although we requested funds from Manitoba Housing to install the dishwasher in December 2021, they indicate that they may pay half the cost if we provide 3 estimates. In spite of repeated requests, only 2 companies have provided estimates to date. Between 10 and 50 people will benefit from this project.

**Amount requested:** \$2,128.00

**Amount recommended:** \$0.00

**Comments:**

Due to the large amount of funding the Foundation has just recently provided Service for Seniors and the potential for other sources of funding becoming available for the dishwasher, the committee is recommending no funding for the project.

**Name of organization:** Portage Service for Seniors Resource Guide 2022-12(S)

**Background of Organization:** Portage Service for Seniors provides services that assist older adults in maintaining an independent lifestyle. It is a charitable organization funded in part by Southern Health, Portage Plains United Way, and donations. Staff and volunteers are available to assist adults in transportation, socialization, nutrition, and safety needs. In conjunction with the city of Portage la Prairie we have regularly published a Seniors Resource Guide (SRG) to provide seniors with easily accessible information regarding the various businesses, organizations, and other resources that are available in the city. The most recent guide was published in 2019. We are fortunate to have many new businesses and relocated offices in Portage la Prairie, so an updated guide is necessary.

**Project Description:** We will prepare a current Seniors Resource Guide (SRG) to assist seniors in knowing where to look and who to contact for the various resources and services available in Portage la Prairie. Unlimited people benefit. Within 6 months. We will hire a casual employee for 30 hours at \$13.50/hour plus mandatory deductions to obtain and verify information regarding current businesses and services of interest/benefit to seniors.

**Amount requested:** \$1,565.12

**Amount recommended:** \$0.00

**Comments:**

Due to the fact the applicant failed to seek additional quotes for the printing of the resource guide, the large amount of funding recently provided to the organization and the large amount of cash on hand the organization's financial statements show the committee is recommending no funding for this project.



**Name of organization:** École Arthur Meighen School

**Background of Organization:** Our purpose is to provide, or make provision for, appropriate schooling opportunities for students eligible to attend the Portage la Prairie School Division. Our mission is to recognize the individual needs and potential of our students and to provide these students with the opportunity to undertake schooling experiences that will contribute to the development of their full potential. School experiences will give consideration to the future demands that will be placed upon society by our rapidly changing world. PLPSD is funded by the provincial government and typically through municipal school taxes – municipal taxes are longer the way schools are/will be funded (funds are currently frozen) and will be phased out in the near future. Our stakeholders include all citizens in the Portage la Prairie School Division catchment area. We provide schooling from kindergarten to grade twelve and also provide adult education. We partner with the community on many activities and extracurricular events. Ecole Arthur Meighen School is a Grade 4 to 8 dual track (French Immersion) middle years school. Our current school population is 431 students. We are a growing school within a growing catchment area.

**Project Description:** The purpose of this project is to replace our aging play structures on our playground. Both of our current play structures were moved from Prince Charles School after the amalgamation in 2006. These play structures need ongoing maintenance, with parts that we cannot longer acquire, and are not accessible to our students that have transportation limitations (wheelchairs, walking restraints, etc.). As a school community, we realize in order to provide safe and accessible opportunities for all students, we need to update our current play structures. Having adequate spaces will enhance the well-being of children and impact their development and learning. New accessible play structures will create space for our students to use on a daily basis to learn, play and be active. We have noticed the need for an upgrade and have applied for funding in the past. Portage la Prairie School division is committed to updating our play structure area. The funds that we will be allocated are not enough to fund this project Our school is growing, and we are in dire need of age-appropriate play structures for all of our students. We feel that providing accessible modern updated play structures will positively affect all students and remove barriers for those with limitations.

**Amount requested:** \$50,000.00

**Amount recommended:** \$35,000

**Comments:**

This is the second time EAMS has requested funding a new playground. Due to the large amount of funds the School Division is allocating to the project, the large population growth in the area of the school and the fact the Foundation has contributed to every other playground in our community, the committee is recommending \$35,000 for the project.

**Name of organization:** Portage Learning and Literacy Centre      2022-15(S)

**Background of Organization:** The Portage Learning & Literacy Centre (PLLC) is a non-profit, charitable organization providing programs and services to help individuals in Portage la Prairie and the Central Plains region achieve their goals. We offer many different but complementary programs in one convenient location. It is a school, offering adult education programs - Mature Student High School Diploma and Adult Literacy - through partnership with Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology (MITT). Our TLC Daycare (in partnership with Portage Daycare) provides on-site daycare for education and ESL students. Being a settlement service-providing organization (funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada), we help all newcomers adapt to a new country and become fully engaged in all aspects of Canadian society. We offer a wide variety of services and programming for newcomers, including (but not limited to) info sessions, referrals, notary services, formal ESL, informal language training, Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS), and programs for women, seniors and youth. Funded by Manitoba government, PLLC provides Employment Assistance Services, which includes direct support and group sessions for anyone needing help getting a job. Youth between age 15-30 are eligible to participate in our Portage Work Experience Program (funded by ESDC), which provides paid skills training and work experience placement with local employers. All services are open to anyone, and free of charge.

**Project Description:** Since its inception in early 1990s, PLLC has provided services that benefit vulnerable individuals, as well as our community and region. We are the only organization in our region that offers a Settlement Program to assist newcomers in adjusting to life in Canada, putting them on the path to full citizenship and integration. Our 'Envision Diversity: Newcomer Youth Film Workshop and Festival' is a new program we are creating to help newcomer youth develop their voices and skills to promote diversity. The funds allotted through your grant will ensure that we can provide adequate but also quality equipment and technology needed to develop effective student films. Our plan is to invest in programs such as 'Adobe Premiere', which is user-friendly and offers accessibility through tutorials for youth who are unfamiliar with this level of video production. 'Adobe Premiere' also offers the opportunity for a more advanced level of video production for anyone seeking to enhance their skills. While our team has developed a wish-list of filmmaker's recommended products, we understand that these products are exceptionally pricey. To rectify this, our team has begun planning for more cost-efficient solutions such as claymation, and smartphone film-making add-ons, so our students have the option to produce films regardless of budget. Of course, access to the more expensive products would increase their skills, and improve production overall.

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

**Amount recommended:** \$5,000

**Comments:** The grants committee appreciates the benefits of this project and the impact it could have on newcomer youth and recommends full funding for the project.

**Name of organization:** Fort la Reine Museum 2202-16(S)

**Background of Organization:** The Fort la Reine Museum is a large open air heritage institution that features over 25 heritage structures and 5 acres of natural Prairie terrain. It exists as an integral cultural force within Central Manitoba as an educational center, a place that creates dialogue around culture and contemporary issues, and a participatory community destination where visitors can explore new experiences and learn how history continues to affect our current lives. The Fort la Reine Museum is a collecting institution that is dedicated to protecting, preserving, and presenting the history and memory of the Canadian Prairies. The museum is dedicated to its foundational four pillars: Education, Heritage Preservation, Tourism, and Community. We are a non-profit funded by the RM of Portage, the city of Portage, as well as several provincial and federal grants each year. Museum membership is currently \$25/year for an individual and \$60/year for a family (four people). Members receive free regular admission for a year as well as discounts on signature special events, and access to our resource library. The museum offers various admission by donation/free admission days to encourage the local community to join in on special events and programming. Portage la Prairie non-profit groups receive a 50% discount on admission as part of our commitment to the community.

**Project Description:** The Fort la Reine Museum hosts various events, programs, and exhibitions throughout the season. A simple, yet extremely important part of organizing all these events, is having the proper equipment and materials. The current folding tables and chairs used at the museum have been collected and donated over the last several decades, many of which are starting to fall apart. It is important that the equipment we use at the museum is portable and easy to use. Our currently folding tables are extremely heavy and difficult to assemble and disassemble. Our current stacking chairs take up a lot of storage space and come apart easily when moved. We want to ensure that our equipment is safe and easy for staff, volunteers, and visitors to use.

**Amount requested:** \$2,240.00

**Amount recommended:** \$2,240

**Comments:**

The Grants Committee appreciates all of the programming and events the Museum provides to our community and for this reason recommends full funding for this project.

**Name of organization:** Yellowquill School 2022-17(S)

**Background of Organization:** Yellowquill is one of the many schools that form the Portage la Prairie School Division. Yellowquill is a Kindergarten to Grade 8 school, located in the southwest area of Portage la Prairie. Yellowquill has approximately 350-400 students in attendance each year. Our goal is not only to educate said students but to assist them in reaching their full potential, supporting them however possible. We wish to give our students every opportunity available to grow and become responsible and capable adults. The Portage School Division is provincially funded as well as receiving funding from taxes that are collected annually from Portage la Prairie residents. The School Division has 8 board members that are elected in to their position by the community.

**Project Description:** Yellowquill School was fortunate enough to receive funding from grants to renovate their old computer room into a Family Room in the Summer of 2021. This room is used for preparing breakfast for students as well as programming for students and parents. Community members and outside agencies also use the room to meet with students. However, it lacks furniture and kitchen supplies. The funds that were allocated for furniture in the previous grant unexpectedly needed to be used to pay for work that was not budgeted for due to miscommunication. The Outreach Facilitator who planned out the project of the family room thought the School Division would do the electric and drywall work for the room. Therefore, she did not get quotes or budget for this. However, since this is a stand-alone project, the School Division was not able to do said work. Since Cobbe's was already onsite doing the plumbing, they were hired to do the electrical and drywall work. This unexpected setback cost the budgeted funding for furniture and therefore, the room has not been able to be used as wished. If we receive the necessary funding, we would like to purchase the furniture and kitchen supplies as soon possible so we can finish the room, finally ensuring it's being used to its full intended use. In the future, grants from the Breakfast Club of Canada, Child Nutrition Council as well as school funding will be used to continuously fund the Family Room and its activities.

**Amount requested:** \$10,720.00

**Amount recommended:** \$0.00

**Comments:**

The grants committee was not impressed with the mismanagement of the funds granted to Yellowquill School through the past grant for this project and were not in favor of providing additional funding.

**Name of organization:** Central Plains Aquatic Club 2022-18(S)

**Background of Organization:** The Central Plains Aquatic Club (CPAC) is a provincial sport organization with Swim Manitoba focusing on athlete development and physical literacy in competitive swimming. We teach life skills through the sport of swimming to athletes between the ages of five and eighteen. There are two program levels: a beginner group for athletes learning the fundamentals and an age group for those competing provincially. Competition is not always the end goal for all of our athletes. Many athletes who have participated in our program move onto becoming swim instructors, lifeguards, coaches or continue to swim at a higher level. CPAC is funded through registration fees paid by the individual athletes in Portage la Prairie and surrounding area. Registration fees pay for coaches and pool rentals.

**Project Description:** New equipment will help our club maximize efficiency by allowing for more streamlined team management, organization and planning. We require technology to register athletes for competitions, track athlete development, communicate with club and board members and create awareness about the swim team through social media. The competitive swim season runs from September to May. We hope to purchase the technology before the 2022-2023 swim season.

**Amount requested:** \$2,632.88

**Amount recommended:** \$2,600

**Comments:**

The Grants Committee learnt about the effectiveness of this technology in assisting swimmers and understands before the pandemic the aquatic club had a high level of participation. For these reasons the committee recommends full funding.

**Name of organization:** Herman Prior Activity Centre 2022-19(S)

**Background of Organization:** The Herman Prior Activity Centre, a not-for-profit organization, is a place for seniors to meet and congregate in a centrally located and fully accessible facility. The main focus is to provide a "home away from home" type environment where their needs are taken into full consideration by offering a place where they have a sense of belonging. Many seniors find themselves living alone and finding an economical way to socialize is very important to their overall mental and physical well-being. The Centre offers many varied services which include the Congregate Meal Program offering healthy home cooked meals 5 days a week; physical activities such as line dancing, square dancing, senior fitness classes, yoga, chair yoga, resistance band, clogging, HPC Tai Chi, pickleball, billiards, floor curling and floor shuffleboard. Card games (which not only promote socialization but help to maintain mental acuity) cribbage, euchre, whist, bridge; Natural History classes, Genealogy classes, weaving, quilting, knitting and painting classes. The Centre's major funding comes from Southern Health Sante Sud and the City of Portage la Prairie for operating costs. Other funding comes from rental of the facility and membership dues. The number of members hovers around 500 and fees remain at a low affordable rate of \$25.00 per year.

**Project Description:** The current sound system at the Centre is very old and difficult to use. The sound system is rented by other organizations that utilize the facility for Annual General Meetings, Duck's Unlimited, Portage Wildlife Club, National Association of Federal Retirees, Manitoba Association of Senior Centers, Quiz Nights, family birthdays, anniversaries, baby showers, Sunset Palliative Care and funeral services. The Centre will no longer be renting weddings and socials and intends on having more appropriate events geared towards the senior population and their families. The types of events that will be held will include musicians during lunch hour, comedians, skits, music concerts (local musicians will be a priority) geared towards the older population (commentary from many members and the general public have expressed that there is a lack of this type of music genre in the community). With the purchase of the easy-to-use Bose Sound System, the centre can have this readily available for these events as well as for the facility rentals as mentioned above. We intend on using the Bose sound system for 4 large music events per year; lunch hour music once per week (alternating days of the week); to host weekly activities such as Jeopardy, Family Feud, Themed Bingo Games. All events will be offered to anyone in the community and surrounding areas but focused on the Seniors. All events can benefit 250 to 300 people. No future funding will be required for the sound system.

**Amount requested:** \$5,492.00

**Amount recommended:** \$5,500

**Comments:** The Grants Committee appreciates the programming the Herman Prior Centre offers our community as well as their initiative to modify revenue streams and events to meet the needs/wants of their members. For these reasons the committee recommends full funding.

**Name of organization:** Youth for Christ/Youth Unlimited 2022-20(S)

**Background of Organization:** Youth for Christ Youth Unlimited is a organization that works with youth in our community. Many of the youth we work with are marginalized, at risk, or indigenous youth. We run programs out of 2 sites. Our community outreach center, The Door, is on Willow Bay in the Manitoba low-income housing units. We run cooking classes, evening outdoor games nights, guitar lessons, small group meetings, and a moms coffee break. At our Factory Centre, at 60 Tupper St., we run a Monday night junior high games night, a Tuesday evening skate night and a Wednesday night high school drop in. We also provide meals and small hampers for the homeless when they drop in. On Tuesday night we run a floor hockey program out of the Southport gym for high school students. We are funded through donations from the general public and our programs are all free except our floor hockey program which has a small cost to it for those that can afford it. If someone can't afford it, it's free.

**Project Description:** We are looking to add a 75" smart TV to the main lounge area in our drop-in center. The Centre is used for meetings, talks and various community events (such as the one we are having with the Learning Centre in 2 weeks to run a program for their clients). This will also be used by our community free of charge. We are also looking at replacing the BBQs on our community BBQ that we share with the rest of the community every year. The current BBQs are getting old and rusty and we want to replace them with something new for this upcoming BBQ season. With the new Public Health Officer in town, we want to make sure the BBQ will continue to meet Provincial standards. Again, this BBQ is offered to any community group free of charge and gets booked a lot throughout the summer months.

**Amount requested:** \$4,000.00

**Amount recommended:** \$4,000

**Comments:** The Grants Committee appreciates YFC offering their BBQ for other community events and knows the impact this has on other non-profits fundraising capabilities. The committee also appreciates the programming and opportunities the YFC drop-in center offers youth and for those reasons recommends full funding for this application.

**Name of organization:** Portage Collegiate Institute 2022-21(S)

**Background of Organization:** Portage Collegiate Institute is the only public high school in Portage la Prairie. Our campus has 2 buildings with a plaza to join the two buildings. Since amalgamation of the two high schools in 2006, PCI has consistently had a population of about 1000 students who come from Yellowquill, LaVerendrye, Arthur Meighen, Oakville, Dakota Tipi First Nation and Long Plain First Nation. Our main purpose is to have all of our students graduate high school with 30 credits. Manitoba education financially supports our school by the number of students who we have registered at the end of September annually. The project will be based out of the basement of the Prince Charles Building that was built in 1969. We currently have a classroom that is housing our breakfast program, community closet and our outreach (social) worker's office. This room does not have running water and is very small for the purpose it is used for. Our Breakfast program serves 200 students daily. The community closet provides clothing for students who are in need. Our outreach worker also has students in her room non-stop to provide them with food, hygiene products and support. She is responsible for home contacts for families and their students who are not attending school. With such limited space, she gets them to school, but does not have any space to be with them for the day. Currently, she gets them into their classes only to have them not come the next day due to the students feeling unwelcome and overwhelmed

**Project Description:** Portage Collegiate Institute piloted a program to get grade 10 students re-engaged with school and back on the path to graduation. Currently I am using a vacant Foods lab, however, for the 2022-2023 school year I will not be able to use this space as our Foods classes will be running 100%. With the pilot project, I have had 22 students start attending school again after years of absences. PCI is wanting to extend the pilot to include all grades and so we need a space so the students can feel comfortable. Through this grant, I envision a space that is multi-functional and beyond a typical classroom. The room I have received permission to use is large and has an existing kitchen that needs cabinetry and stoves installed. The room will be divided into different spaces that will house not only our program but our breakfast program that runs daily from 8-8:45 as well as our community closet that gives clothing to any of our students in need. We will have PCI staff members using the space to provide "a one room schoolhouse" feel as well as our Outreach worker (social worker) to work with our students' families as well. I see this room as a great starting point for our students who have not been attending the traditional school system.

**Amount requested:** \$47,693.04

**Amount recommended:** \$0.00

**Comments:** The Grants Committee felt it hard to prioritize all of the School Division's requests and were unsure of the benefits to this new program and the sustainable funding available from the School Division. For these reasons the committee is recommending no funding for this project.



**Name of organization:** Fort la Reine School 2022-22(S)

**Background of Organization:** Fort la Reine School is a K-6 school located within the Portage la Prairie School Division. The purpose of Fort la Reine school is to provide appropriate schooling opportunities for all students who attend here. We aim to recognize the needs and support our students with opportunities to achieve their full potential. Fort la Reine school serves the students who attend here, as well as their families.

**Project Description:** Fort Families is a weekly parent-child engagement program that is designed to foster healthy family relationships, as well as develop positive relationships and increase family engagement with the school. This program will include a weekly after school activity that families can attend together. The program activities will alternate between game and craft nights, both providing opportunities for families to engage with each other and have fun. The students and parents/caregivers of Fort la Reine School will benefit from this program. I would estimate that a minimum 50 individuals will benefit from it, over the course of the program, although it depends on program attendance. The program will begin in October and end by April, with at least 20 days of programming offered to families. I would hope to offer a similar program in future years as well. To fund future programming, I will look into and apply for other grant opportunities that are available.

**Amount requested:** \$1,750.00

**Amount recommended:** \$1,750

**Comments:**

The Grants Committee understands this school serves our communities most under privileged families and feels this is a great program to help engage families and students. For these reasons the committee recommends full funding.

**Name of organization:** Visions of Independence 2022-23(S)

**Background of Organization:** VOI is a charitable, non-profit organization that is primarily funded by the Province of Manitoba. VOI provides residential, respite, day and supported independent living programs in Portage la Prairie, St. Claude, Carman and Winnipeg, MB to people with intellectual disabilities. We are committed to ensuring that each of the people we provide services to have all the rights and opportunities of community living. We have made a commitment to providing supports specific to each person to ensure that they are living as independent a lifestyle as possible based on their own personal goals. VOI has a vibrant day program in Portage la Prairie that currently supports approximately 40 people and is always growing. All of the people attending day program call Portage la Prairie home. Some of the people attending look for pre-employment, employment and volunteer opportunities in the community while others choose to enjoy the recreation and leisure programming provided.

**Project Description:** VOI's Day Program has a substantial social enterprise component that opens up many opportunities to the people who attend the program. The purchase of a few key capital items to enhance social enterprise operations will significantly benefit the community of Portage la Prairie. As an example, an ice cream cooler and milkshake maker at Splash Island will provide many customers with additional concession items to purchase during summertime. A pop-up tent can be set up at a farmer's market or at The Whoop and Holler to sell food items or gift wares. Community events provide opportunities for day program attendees to enhance their skill set. The customer service skills of interacting with people, food handling and money handling are all valuable for the people who attend day program. VOI's program attendees will benefit from the purchase and use of these items but so will the people that live and work in the Portage la Prairie area. By fostering community interaction opportunities, we create an inclusive, positive environment for all day program attendees as well as the community. Hundreds and potentially thousands will benefit as we work toward having the grant items available for summer 2022. Social enterprise falls under the umbrella of day program which operates with provincial funding. The items purchased with this grant funding will assist in the ongoing support and operations of social enterprise which we hope to one day be self-sustaining.

**Amount requested:** \$8,850.00

**Amount recommended:** \$8,850

**Comments:** The Grants Committee likes the initiative of Visions of Independence to provide food services to our community as well as providing job opportunities to their clients. For these reasons the committee recommends full funding.