



## **Grant Committee Report March 2026**

Grants Committee Members: Warren Neufeld (Chair), Garry Wright, Aaron Pierre, Sherrie Palmer, Winnie Pauch, Bev Gradidge and Delnora Rice  
Staff: Lorna Knight (Executive Director)

A total of 28 grant applications were received, however Red River College's application was withdrawn before the grant meeting.

Some applications were submitted incomplete at the deadline. Staff sent reminders and applicants had 24 hours (until end of day March 17) to submit missing documentation. Two applications were submitted late, with explanation. Lorna relayed to the grant committee the appropriate scoring on the matrix in accordance with completed/late applications.

The amount requested from the 28 applications was \$249,546.09 and CFPD has allocated \$222,800 for this Spring Community Grant Cycle.

The Grants Committee met on March 23, 2026 to review & discuss the applications.

The following report from the grants committee includes details on all applications evaluated as well as the 22 projects the committee is recommending for funding totaling \$179,706.09.

Grant Committee will be meeting again this spring to speak in depth about the grant matrix, multi-year granting options, the new Well-being and Safety Plan and future granting timelines.

**1. Name of organization: Oakville Silver Threads Seniors**

**Background of Organization:** The Oakville Silver Threads Seniors Inc. is a non-profit organization. Our purpose is to promote the participation of its members in the enjoyment of their leisure time, and to provide and facilitate the appropriate activities to achieve this end. Members are primarily senior citizens. We maintain the Oakville Active Living Centre and provide the following services at this site: 1) Take-out or dine-in meals, 3 days a week for \$10 per meal; 2) Lending library of books and puzzles; 3) Crafts on Mondays; 4) Canasta on Tuesdays; 5) Yoga on Wednesdays; 6) Reading to daycare and Oakville school students; and 7) Community archives. We also rent out the centre for meetings and events like teas, birthday parties, showers, family gatherings, and funeral receptions.

**Project Description:** We are requesting funding to install new flooring in the kitchen and bathrooms at the Active Living Centre. The health inspector has asked for these improvements in order to meet health codes. If the new flooring is not installed, there is a risk that the Active Living Centre will not be able to remain open. Members, and anyone who rents the centre for events will benefit from this project. Approximately 60 members participate in our programs on an annual basis. The Active Living Centre is rented out for events approximately 42 times per year.

**Amount requested:** \$7,012.88

**Amount recommended:** \$7,012.88

**Comments:** Funding granted as presented

**2. Name of organization: Lions Foundation of MB and NW Ontario**

**Background of Organization:** The Lions Foundation is a registered charitable organization that has been serving communities for 45 years. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for people of all ages who are visually or hearing impaired, living with medical challenges, or facing barriers to independence. The programs are all at no cost to participants.

**Project Description:** The Lions Foundation previously submitted this initiative during the Fall 2025 intake and was encouraged to reapply during the Spring cycle, as the project timeline now aligns with CFPD's funding period. Bringing Care Closer is a free mobile vision and hearing screening program for children ages six months to 18 years. Beginning in September 2026, the Lions Foundation will launch a fully equipped mobile unit to visit schools, daycares, and community events across Manitoba and NW Ontario. While regional in scope, the mobile unit will serve Portage la Prairie and District through scheduled visits to local schools and community organizations, ensuring children can access early-detection services without needing to travel to larger centres. Families will receive immediate results and referrals when follow-up care is recommended. By removing barriers related to transportation and financial limitations, the program brings essential services directly into trusted community spaces.

**Amount requested:** \$20,000

**Amount recommended:** \$0

**Comments:** Grant committee was concerned about duplication of services with Southern Health and a lack of information in the application regarding how, where and how many were going to be impacted by this program. Considering the vast area set to be served, it was felt like the ask was not in proportion to the number of community members served.

**3. Name of organization: CFS of Central MB Foundation**

**Background of Organization:** The Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba Foundation supports 4 different programs: Chance 2 Camp, Grow, Play, and Learn. Children aged 5-17 are eligible to apply if they fit the financial qualifications. 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 that these experiences are an important investment in the future of our children and our community, offering lessons far too important to lose because of financial circumstances.

**Project Description:** The Foundation is seeking funding to design, produce, and install exterior signage at the office location in Portage la Prairie. This initiative aims to improve public visibility, enhance accessibility, and strengthen community engagement by clearly identifying the Foundation's physical presence. Currently, the building is only identified as the main CFS office, and most people don't know that the Foundation is also located there. With more visibility in the community, it is expected that more support and/or financial growth will occur if people know where to visit in person (or even that they can)—as currently only the CFS office has signage on the shared building.

**Amount requested:** \$3,052

**Amount recommended:** \$3,052

**Comments:** Funding granted as presented.

#### 4. Name of organization: Children's Rehabilitation Foundation

**Background of Organization:** The Children's Rehabilitation Foundation (CRF) is a charitable organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and youth with physical and/or developmental disabilities in Manitoba. CRF enhances accessibility, participation, and well-being by funding programs, specialized equipment, and initiatives that support children receiving services through the Rehabilitation Centre for Children (RCC) at the SSCY Centre.

**Project Description:** The Children's Rehabilitation Foundation (CRF) is requesting funding through its Adaptive Equipment Loan Program to purchase a Small/Medium Cloud Lift Chair with elevate function for TG, a 17-year-old with Hereditary Progressive Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) who is a full-time power wheelchair user. Due to limited strength and contractures, TG cannot reposition himself for comfort or skin health and currently relies on family assistance. Following a successful trial, it was determined the lift chair will allow TG to independently reposition and support safer transfers. One youth and his family will directly benefit. If funded, the chair will be ordered and installed between June 30 and September 30. CRF's Adaptive Equipment Loan Program has a long waitlist, with some children waiting 4-12 months. Each funded piece of equipment helps children receive needed supports sooner and shortens the waitlist.

**Amount requested:** \$3,495

**Amount recommended:** \$3,495

**Comments:** Grant committee stressed that this must be utilized for a Portage and area resident only (as indicated by their application)

#### 5. Name of organization: Portage Community Revitalization Corporation

**Background of Organization:** Portage Community Revitalization Corporation (PCRC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the well-being, safety, and vibrancy of Portage la Prairie. Our purpose is to work alongside the community to empower residents, enhance neighbourhoods, foster community pride, and build the capacity of local organizations. PCRC provides a wide range of community-focused services, including housing and affordability supports, educational and resource-based programming, safety and wellness initiatives, neighbourhood revitalization, and accessible transportation options.

**Project Description:** This project will provide and install home security camera systems for individuals and families who are experiencing concerns about break-ins, property damage, and personal safety. Approximately 100 households will benefit, including 25 seniors already identified as high need, along with additional vulnerable families and individuals. The project will be carried out in 2026, with installations completed throughout the year. The requested funding will cover the full cost of the equipment and installation. To sustain the project in future years, we will continue seeking grants, community partnerships, and additional funding opportunities to expand access to home security supports for vulnerable households.

**Amount requested:** \$13,390

**Amount recommended:** \$0

**Comments:** Application did not have sufficient information regarding how the selection of individuals for this program was occurring and who was responsible for the maintenance and ongoing monitoring costs of the cameras. Concern was also expressed for how to ensure the cameras were secure, that folks receiving the cameras did not sell them etc. The application also did not indicate that the full number of participants were selected for the amount requested.

#### 6. Name of organization: Fort la Reine Museum

**Background of Organization:** Located on the outskirts of Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, Fort la Reine Museum is an open-air heritage museum featuring more than 25 unique historic structures. The site illustrates life in a prairie community from 1738 to 1950, highlighting early fur trade history, regional Indigenous histories, pioneer settlement, frontier entrepreneurship, and domestic life from the mid-19th to mid-20th centuries. The museum is supported by the City and RM of Portage la Prairie, as well as grants, admissions, and special events, and serves as a key cultural, educational, and tourism destination in the region. Our four pillars—education, tourism, heritage preservation, and community connection—guide and inform all of our programs, initiatives, and overall mission. These foundational priorities ensure that Fort la Reine Museum remains a place of learning, cultural stewardship, visitor engagement, and meaningful community involvement.

**Project Description:** The Fort la Reine Museum is seeking \$10,000 to refurbish and upgrade our Visitor Centre, transforming it into a welcoming cafe-style meeting space and tourism information hub. As one of the first stops for visitors entering our region, the Visitor Centre plays an important role in shaping first impressions. While the space is currently functional, it is dated and limits our ability to serve as a vibrant gathering place and community resource. By modernizing and reimagining the space, we will enhance both the visitor experience and our capacity to support local tourism and community engagement. A key component of this project is the development of a small cafe. This cafe will not only generate additional revenue but also support small-scale events and rentals hosted at the museum. It will create the possibility of being open to the public year-round, with limited hours during the off-season, helping to increase our presence and accessibility within the community. Funding will support the installation of a coffee station with a fridge, the purchase of a portable sink to meet health and safety requirements, display cases & shelving to showcase tourism and community information, & two televisions to enhance educational programming & presentations. Additionally, we plan to purchase a BBQ to support visitor and community events, with the opportunity to rent it to groups using our space. Together, these upgrades will create a more welcoming, functional, and sustainable Visitor Centre that serves both residents and visitors throughout the year.

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

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

**Comments: Funding granted as presented.**

#### **7. Name of organization: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Plains**

**Background of Organization:** Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Plains enables life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and potential of young people. We serve young people 6-18 years of age, who face adversity and are in need of an additional consistent and supportive Developmental Relationship. There are a number of different opportunities for youth to be mentored, depending on what is the best fit for the youth. There are no fees charged to be part of Big Brothers Big Sisters, for mentoring or for activities and opportunities that are provided.

**Project Description:** “*Growth Through Group*” targets three group programs: 1) **Go Girls**, 2) **Big Possibilities**, and 3) **Big Play**. *Go Girls and Big Possibilities* is open to the community at large. *Go Girls* targets girls 12-14 years of age. Our plan is to run a week-long summer day camp, and two programs at a local school throughout the 2026-27 school year. The curriculum deals with healthy activity, balanced eating, and life skills such as problem solving, decision making and more. *Big Possibilities* targets students 14+ and is an educational and career readiness program. Topics covered are resume writing, interviews, financial literacy, and the opportunity to speak with someone in a career the youth are interested in and more. The plan is to offer one program after school in the fall. *Big Play* is available to the youth in BBBS with the assistance of the Portage Terriers, and is a floor hockey program that will run from January - March. *Go Girls* will serve approximately 20 girls; *Big Possibilities* will serve 10 students; and *Big Play* will serve 5-6 students—for a total of 36 youth.

**Amount requested: \$3,220**

**Amount recommended: \$3,220**

**Comments: Funding granted as presented.**

#### **8. Name of organization: Oakville Curling Club**

**Background of Organization:** The Oakville Curling Club is a hub for sport, community, and fellowship serving Oakville and surrounding areas. It welcomes curlers of all ages and skill levels at an affordable cost. It also provides a safe space for all community members to socialize, play cards, and strengthen community ties. In a small rural community, opportunities to connect, especially during winter, are vital for building relationships, connection, and belonging. Our Friday night curling league is open to the community as a whole—we can welcome 48 curlers per week. In addition, many friends, family and members of the community come to watch curling, chat with neighbors and play board games. For those who wish to curl at our club fees are very low. Our current curling season, 2025-26, fees were \$80 per person, or \$240 per team of 4. Our club relies on the strength of our volunteers and two major annual fundraisers: a cash calendar and our Oakville Fowl Supper. These two fundraisers average a net income of approximately \$12,000 annually.

**Project Description:** Several years ago, our aging ice plant failed beyond repair. We moved to natural ice, but warmer winters have made it impossible to maintain quality ice for the past two seasons. Without a reliable ice surface, participation has declined and the club faces the real risk of closure. Curling is the anchor that draws people in—without it, our ability to bring the community together is compromised. To restore our curling program in an environmentally responsible way, our Board has chosen to connect to the existing geothermal system at the adjacent, recently built, Oakville Community Centre and Daycare, installed in 2024. This approach will allow us to produce reliable ice that can handle the warmer winters while significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions and our environmental footprint. We expect to see a savings of up to 50% on our hydro bill, compared to a conventional ice plant. We have purchased the pipe for under the ice in 2025 and plan to have volunteers help to install it. Our plan is to have the geothermal equipment installed and operational for the 2026/27 curling season.

**Amount requested: \$25,000**

**Amount recommended: \$0**

**Comments: Committee felt that this purchase did not serve a large amount of people, that curling rinks in general are seeing a lack of use and sustainability and there are still significant funds to be raised for the completion of this project. Additionally this project scored low on CFPD objectives and Community Needs.**

#### **9. Name of organization: Prairie Belles & Beaus (via Herman Prior Activity Centre)**

**Background of Organization:** The Herman Prior Activity Centre is a Not-for-Profit organization opened in 1984. It is centrally located, and the building is fully accessible and barrier free. The HPAC is a gathering place for seniors in the community and surrounding areas where 27 programs and activities are offered along with a congregate noon meal Monday-Friday. All programs, activities and meals are provided at affordable costs so that all can participate to assist in social, physical and mental health well-being. The Herman Prior Activity Centre currently has 791 members. The Herman Prior Activity Centre is pleased to support organizations such as **Prairie Belles & Beaus**, that create meaningful opportunities for social engagement among seniors. Music is a powerful way to bring people together, and it is enjoyed by a large number of older adults in our community. We are proud to support the Prairie Belles & Beaus in their efforts to expand their music program and upgrade their equipment, helping ensure that seniors continue to have access to quality musical programming and social connection.

**Project Description:** Stephanie Kauffman leads the Prairie Belles & Beaus group and had this to say on her program: I hope to teach and play handbells both with my advanced group as well as any beginners that might want to join. This will benefit Portage in general as I'm being asked to bring my group to perform at many various charities, fundraisers, and community events. This is an ongoing project, as each year various people request us at their Christmas events. I have done this with my own personal equipment the past ten years, and I intend to continue, but need to upgrade my

equipment. At present I can only have 8 people playing at one time. With this grant, I would be able to expand the group possibilities up to 20 people with the extra chimes. This is a one-time grant request for new equipment. Once this equipment is purchased, it should be able to be used for years, as I have done so with my bells these past 10 years in Portage, and before that in other places.

**Amount requested:** \$5,216.48

**Amount recommended:** \$5,216.48

**Comments:** Funding granted as presented.

#### **10. Name of organization: Portage Learning & Literacy Centre (#1) – Food Security**

**Background of Organization:** PLLC is a non-profit organization that supports individuals and families through education, employment, and settlement services. Its purpose is to help people build the skills, knowledge, and connections they need to take part in their community and become more independent. PLLC offers programs such as adult literacy and education, job search and employment training, newcomer settlement and language programs, and youth programs. The organization also provides supports such as volunteer opportunities, free low-income tax filing, and help accessing identification and basic technology services. PLLC mainly serves residents of Portage la Prairie and the Central Plains region, including low-income individuals and families, newcomers to Canada, youth building job skills, and adults improving their education or English. PLLC is funded through federal and provincial government programs, community grants, project funding, partnerships, donations, and volunteer support.

**Project Description:** PLLC is seeking funding to support a breakfast and snack program for learners attending literacy, education, language, and employment programs at our centre. The program will provide simple breakfast and snack items such as fruit, bagels with spreads, coffee, and tea so learners can start their day with basic nutrition and be ready to learn. Snacks will also be available for learners who attend classes later in the day so they can benefit from the same support. More than 90% of the learners we serve have low incomes, and many arrive to class without having eaten, which can affect their ability to focus, participate in class, and benefit fully from their learning opportunities. Providing basic food supports helps remove a barrier to participation and supports consistent attendance and engagement in programs that help people build skills for employment and community life. The program will run September through June and will benefit at least 100 learners over the year, with roughly 30 to 40 learners accessing food items on a typical day. Funding will be used to purchase basic food items at a local grocery store. This small support can make a meaningful difference in helping learners stay engaged in their education and work toward greater stability and independence.

**Amount requested:** \$7,000

**Amount recommended:** \$7,000

**Comments:** Funding granted as presented.

#### **11. Name of organization: Family Resource Centre**

**Background of Organization:** Mission: 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. Our clients are families in the community. Our goal is to not charge for programs or access to services with the exception of our social enterprises involving childcare in which case we work with families who need it to determine reasonable cost for their situation.

**Project Description:** We are seeking funding to host a series of workshops designed to strengthen family well-being across our community. This initiative would include a larger conference-style event, complemented by smaller learning opportunities offered throughout the year both in person and online. Topics would address key stages and challenges families experience, including mental health and Mental Health First Aid, parenting young children, digital safety, how to have difficult conversations with children, supporting children in the middle years, raising teenagers, navigating relationships with adult children, and perimenopause and menopause. These topics have been identified as areas where families are seeking more information and support, and where emerging research highlights the importance of increased awareness and education. Throughout the year, we also aim to expand access to our existing programming. Currently, many of our educational sessions take place during daytime hours, which can limit participation for working families. By hosting guest speakers in the evenings and offering online sessions that families can access from home, we will significantly broaden our reach and make learning opportunities more accessible.

**Amount requested:** \$7,570

**Amount recommended:** \$7,570

**Comments:** Funding granted as presented. In terms of marketing costs, the amount is approved with the stipulation that it is to be used exclusively for marketing this program only.

## 12. Name of organization: Westend Daycare

**Background of Organization:** Westend Day Care is a licensed non-profit child care centre in Portage La Prairie providing child care to 113 children from the community and surrounding area between the ages of 18 months and 12 years. We offer extended-hour care operating 6:30 a.m. until 12 midnight and Saturdays from 6:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. We are proud to provide a meal program to meet the nutritional needs of the children, as well as a transportation service for school age children. We strive to provide accessible and neuroaffirming childcare. We believe all children deserve the opportunity to learn and grow and we adapt our environments to children so they feel safe and secure.

**Project Description:** We would like to create a calming corner and provide sensory play items in two specific areas to meet the needs of disregulated children between the ages of 18 months and 12 years of age. A calming corner is a designated space that is deemed a quiet, safe area for a child to go voluntarily when they are experiencing high emotions. This may include, but is not limited to, feeling overwhelmed, angry, anxious, sad, or scared. The calming corner is a cozy comforting spot complimented with pillows, sensory items, visual aids, and comfort objects. The objective is to empower children of all ages to manage their emotions, practice self-regulation, and give them the opportunity to reset so they become calm and can rejoin their peer group. We intend to stock the calming corner with sensory tools, visual aids, a wide array of quiet activities, and soft soothing lights. In the gym area there will be larger play materials to support children's emotional regulation. Calming corners can be adapted for all ages, from toddlers needing sensory stimulation to older children needing a private space to process their emotions.

**Amount requested:** \$2,500

**Amount recommended:** **\$2,500**

**Comments:** Funding granted as presented.

## 13. Name of organization: Portage Assisted Living Corporation

**Background of Organization:** Portage la Prairie Assisted Living Corporation (PAL) is a local community-based, non-profit organization that owns and operates Dufferin Villa Assisted Living. Dufferin Villa is a 53-unit housing project designed for older adults. Residents of Dufferin Villa receive support services including two meals per day, weekly housekeeping, planned recreation activities and a personal medical alert system – all as part of an overall strategy to support and enhance independent living. We collect monthly rent and tenant service charges from our tenants to fund the operations of Dufferin Villa.

**Project Description:** When Dufferin Villa opened its doors to tenants in February 2022 the only automated doors we had in the building were our front entrance to the building. In hindsight, we underestimated the average age of our tenants (87 yrs) and also the mobility of our tenants, as 70% of our tenants use some form of a mobility aid—making navigation into public washrooms and common rooms a challenge and safety concern. We have been slowly automating doors in high-use areas as our funds allow, starting with a public washroom (\$6,700) on the main floor near our dining room; then moving to our north entrance door and hallway door (\$11,000). We would like to now automate our door to our multipurpose room (MPR). This room is the space where we have the ability to gather all of our tenants (60 total) for recreation activities, seated exercise programs, and entertainment.

**Amount requested:** \$4,972.80

**Amount recommended:** **\$4,972.80**

**Comments:** Funding granted as presented.

## 14. Name of organization: Make-A-Wish Canada (Manitoba & Nunavut)

**Background of Organization:** Make-A-Wish® Canada creates life-changing wishes for children (aged 3-17) diagnosed with critical illness, including those in Portage and district. Wishes Are Medicine. They are a vital part of a child's medical journey—helping restore strength, hope, and resilience when it's needed most. Research shows that wishes can improve adherence to treatment, reduce emergency room visits, and deliver lasting health benefits. As part of the world's leading children's wish-granting organization, Make-A-Wish Canada has granted more than 40,000 wishes over the past 40 years, including 1,835 last year alone. Although National in scope, our focus has always been on delivering our mission in a diverse range of urban and rural communities across the country, and we accomplish this through regional offices. Our Manitoba & Nunavut office has dedicated local staff members, volunteers and a Chapter Advisory Board that allows us to extend our reach across the province and understand the unique needs and desires of the children and families that we support.

**Project Description:** Make-A-Wish Canada grants transformational wish experiences for children facing critical illness. The 'ripple effect' of a wish goes beyond the wish child and their family providing a meaningful, life-changing impact for all those involved. In fact, the average wish impacts 329 individuals throughout the wish journey. Make-A-Wish Canada receives wish referrals on an ongoing basis from the medical community as well as from individuals who initiate their own referrals. Once a child is approved by Make-A-Wish Canada's volunteer Medical Advisory Committee, they are immediately paired with a Wish Coordinator, who will engage in a series of consultations with the family, learning all about the child and the details of their health journey.

A donation from the Community Foundation of Portage and District will go directly towards wish-related expenses. Wish children may choose from several Wish Types: To Go, To Have, To Meet, To Be, To Give. On average, the cost of granting a wish is \$10,000. 3,500 critically ill children across Canada are waiting for wishes, including 4 children in Portage la Prairie.

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

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

**Comments: Funding granted as presented. Grant Committee noted that this will not be an ongoing request that will be approved.**

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

**Background of Organization:** The Oddfellows Lodge is a local branch of the Independent Order of Oddfellows (IOOF) focused on promoting friendship, charity, and community service. We support those in need through financial aid and volunteer work, and host social and fraternal events for members. We are funded by membership dues, and our members, who are committed to helping others, pay a fee to join. The lodge is open to all individuals who share our values.

**Project Description:** Our lodge has seniors who are not able to drive to different events in the city (e.g. movies and other events such as those hands-on projects they can participate in by watching the presenter on the screen). With a projector such as we are proposing, we can present different activities, such arts and crafts or special video attractions of musicals and performance of live theatre). Also with this projector we would be available to offer organizations for their meetings—this will provide the lodge with funding for our other needs. This initiative will ensure our lodge is accessible and welcoming to all.

**Amount requested:** \$2,400

**Amount recommended:** \$2,400

**Comments: Funding granted as presented.**

**16. Name of organization: Portage Regional Recreation Authority**

**Background of Organization:** The Portage Regional Recreation Authority is a partnership between the City and RM of Portage, created to conduct the management and administration of facilities services and funding for public sporting, recreational and leisure services. Funding is received from both the City and the RM, in addition to the PRRA seeking grants from various sources, and user fees to fund our activities.

The PRRA manages Stride Place, a recreation complex with 2 ice surfaces, an indoor pool, a fitness centre, indoor walking track and meeting rooms, Splash Island Waterpark, Rotary Republic of Manitobah Park, Delta Beach Campground, Beaver Stadium, and scheduling for the BDO Centre for the Community. In addition to facility management the PRRA organizes many annual events, programs and classes, including summer day camp, swimming lessons and lifeguard development, Canada Day celebrations, first aid and babysitters courses, public skates, and aquafit. We also provide support to other community organizations and non-profits providing recreational services to the community. We do offer a membership model for our fitness centre, walking track and pool.

**Project Description:** The Portage Regional Recreation Authority (PRRA) is requesting funding for the purchase and installation of a new digital score clock at our primary indoor arena facility in Portage la Prairie. The project involves replacing the existing, aging scoreboard system with a modern LED digital score clock. The new system will provide improved visibility, enhanced functionality, and expanded capabilities including programmable game timing, penalty tracking, player statistics display, and the potential for sponsorship integration and digital messaging. The current score clock has reached the end of its functional lifespan. It presents ongoing maintenance challenges, limited digital capability, and reduced reliability during high-profile events and tournaments. The new digital score clock will ensure accurate timekeeping, improved user interface for officials, and a more professional game-day experience for athletes and spectators.

**Amount requested:** \$60,000

**Amount recommended:** \$60,000

**Comments: Funding granted as presented.**

**17. Name of organization: Junk Yard Dogs**

**Background of Organization:** Junk Yard Dogs Cycling Club (JYD) is a volunteer-led, non-profit cycling organization based in Portage la Prairie. Our purpose is to promote healthy, active lifestyles by providing safe, inclusive cycling opportunities for youth, families, and adults of all skill levels. JYD organizes group rides, youth programming, skills development sessions, community events, and trail stewardship activities. The club also developed and maintains the Prairie Flow Trails Activity Park (in partnership with the City of Portage la Prairie), which is a community cycling facility designed to support skill progression and outdoor recreation. The organization is funded through memberships, fundraising, sponsorships, donations, and grants, and is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Fees are \$10 for a day pass, \$45 for an individual annual membership, and \$75 for a family annual membership.

**Project Description:** JYD would help establish a local chapter of Cycling Without Age (CWA) in Portage la Prairie and the RM of Portage la Prairie. Cycling Without Age is an international volunteer-based program that provides rides to seniors and less-abled individuals on specialized electric-assist trishaws. A trishaw is a three-wheeled, electric-assist bicycle designed to safely carry two passengers in a comfortable front seat while a trained volunteer pilot cycles from behind. The trishaw is the basis of an organized program that restores connection, dignity, and access to the outdoors for those who may otherwise be isolated. Funding will support the purchase of one electric-assist trishaw (manufactured in Quebec), along with safety equipment, insurance, and community awareness materials. The total startup budget is approximately \$13,320.

**Amount requested:** \$13,320

**Amount recommended:** \$13,320

**Comments:** Funding granted as presented.

**18. Name of organization: Youth for Christ**

**Background of Organization:** Youth for Christ / Youth Unlimited exists to engage, support, and empower youth in Portage and the surrounding district. We provide safe, welcoming, and barrier-free programs and activities designed to help young people build positive relationships, develop life skills, and reach their full potential. Our programs are made possible through grant funding and the generous support of individuals, businesses, and community partners who share our commitment to investing in the lives of local youth.

**Project Description:** Our facility is in need of updates to better serve the youth who use our space each week. With consistent and heavy use, the walls and common areas have experienced significant wear and tear over time. A refresh that includes repairing damaged areas and repainting the space would greatly improve the environment, creating a more welcoming and positive setting for the young people who gather here.

In addition to refreshing our facility, we are seeking support to purchase a small machine to assist with the handling of our inflatable equipment. These inflatables are used frequently in our youth programming and are also shared with local social service organizations for community events. Currently, the setup and packing of this equipment requires significant physical effort from our staff and has taken a toll over time. Acquiring the proper equipment would make this process safer and more efficient, allowing our team to continue serving youth and supporting community partners effectively.

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

**Amount recommended:** \$0

**Comments:** Grant Committee noted that this does not strongly address a CFPD objective or community need.

**19. Name of organization: Holiday Avenue Project**

**Background of Organization:** The Holiday Avenue Project (HAP) is a non-profit organization, which began in 2020 and are located in Portage la Prairie, MB. Our mandate is to promote beautification within our city for all to enjoy. The purpose of the HAP Committee is to plan, develop, and execute events, decorations, and improvements on Saskatchewan Avenue, greenspace areas, and parks to enhance safety, promote community engagement, beautification, and local culture in Portage la Prairie. The HAP Committee seeks to foster collaboration with community members, businesses, and other stakeholders to enhance the street's visibility and appeal. HAP is made up of dedicated volunteers who help fundraise and seek grant funding for our projects.

**Project Description:** The City of Portage la Prairie installed a new playground structure in McKay Avenue Park greenspace in November, 2025. HAP's goal for adding lights to the trees in McKay Avenue Park, is to enhance safety, beautification, and enjoyment of this greenspace. With lighting to the trees in McKay Avenue Park, daytime activities can extend into evening and these increased activities may promote physical and mental wellbeing. It is HAP's hope that the lit park may encourage community engagement. This lighting project may also deter vandalism. Enhanced lighting to this park may reduce the risk of falls. Well-lit parks encourage visitors and can boost local economy. If the successful applicant for this grant, HAP would purchase the lights for the trees in McKay Avenue Park. HAP would then collaborate with city employees for the installation of the lights to these trees with the estimated timeline of installing the lights by April 15, 2026. If repairs required, the cost of replacement of lighting would be through fundraising, grant funds, and local business donations.

**Amount requested:** \$5,888.40

**Amount recommended:** \$5,888.40

**Comments:** Funding granted as presented.

**20. Name of organization: Pride Portage la Prairie**

**Background of Organization:** Pride Portage la Prairie is a volunteer-led community organization dedicated to creating welcoming, visible spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and allies across the Portage region. While Pride events have taken place locally for over a decade, a newly energized committee of thirteen volunteers is expanding programming beyond a single annual celebration to offer year-round opportunities for connection, celebration, and education. Through events such as Drag Bingo, musical showcases, film screenings, and outdoor Pride celebrations, Pride Portage la Prairie works to strengthen community belonging while ensuring rural residents have access to inclusive spaces close to home. The organization operates entirely through volunteer leadership, community partnerships, and fundraising initiatives.

**Project Description:** Pride Portage la Prairie plans to host several community events in 2026 including Drag Bingo, a queer musical showcase featuring local and regional performers, 2SLGBTQIA+ film screenings, and an outdoor Pride celebration.

To support these initiatives, Pride Portage la Prairie is seeking funding for a collection of reusable event infrastructure referred to as the "Pride Community Event Kit." This equipment will allow the organization to host events more independently and sustainably while reducing ongoing rental costs. The requested equipment includes a portable PA system with microphones, event tents, a portable projection screen and projector for film programming, a button press for engagement and small-scale fundraising, reusable event signage, and utility wagons for transporting equipment and supplies during events.

**Amount requested:** \$2,450

**Amount recommended:** \$2,450

**Comments:** Funding granted as presented.

**21. Name of organization: Portage Learning & Literacy Centre (#2) – Summer Youth Engagement**

**Background of Organization:** PLLC is a non-profit organization that supports individuals and families through education, employment, and settlement services. Its purpose is to help people build the skills, knowledge, and connections they need to take part in their community and become more independent. PLLC offers programs such as adult literacy and education, job search and employment training, newcomer settlement and language programs, and youth programs. The organization also provides supports such as volunteer opportunities, free low-income tax filing, and help accessing identification and basic technology services. PLLC mainly serves residents of Portage la Prairie and the Central Plains region, including low-income individuals and families, newcomers to Canada, youth building job skills, and adults improving their education or English. PLLC is funded through federal and provincial government programs, community grants, project funding, partnerships, donations, and volunteer support.

**Project Description:** PLLC is seeking funding to purchase outdoor recreation and safety equipment for the Summer Youth Engagement Program for newcomer children and youth in Portage la Prairie. The program provides structured summer activities for more than 90 newcomer children and youth aged 6–15, helping them build friendships, practice English, and participate in positive recreational activities. The program runs each July and August and is delivered by approximately 12 staff members. Funding will be used to purchase durable items such as portable soccer nets, sports balls, volleyball or badminton sets, lawn games, and other activity equipment that allow several groups of youth to participate at the same time. Safety equipment will also be purchased for staff, including walkie-talkie radios for communication during outdoor activities and field trips, first aid kits, safety vests, and shade tents to help ensure activities are delivered safely. These items will be reused each year, making the project sustainable and reducing future program costs. PLLC will maintain and store the equipment within their building storage room and continue operating the program each year through existing program funding, partnerships, and future grant opportunities.

**Amount requested:** \$3,500

**Amount recommended:** \$3,500

**Comments:** Funding granted as presented.

**22. Name of organization: Whoop & Hollar Folk Festival**

**Background of Organization:** Whoop & Hollar Folk Festival is a 100% volunteer-driven, non-profit organization that runs an annual music and arts festival in Portage, among other year-round programming (open mics, concerts, etc.). We support and elevate local and regional performing artists, both emerging and established, while connecting the local community to a wide array of music styles and interactive art experiences. The award-winning festival features over 15 live music acts on 3 stages, plus workshops, children's entertainment, jam sessions, and food/artisan vendors. The Open Mic & Jam Nights provide a free platform for up-and-coming talent to perform live and network with other artists and industry, while creating a space for the community to make music together during the open jams. The Homestead Concert Series, new to Portage last year, provides an affordable means to access first-rate local and international talent in an intimate performance space. The festival is funded by local sponsorships, government grants, and ticket revenue from our events.

**Project Description:** Our festival is seeking funding to purchase two durable wagon carts to improve the safe and efficient transport of equipment and supplies across the festival site. These carts will be used to move stage and sound equipment between the transport truck and stage during both event setup and teardown. Designed to be towed by a small garden tractor (not part of this funding request), the carts can be connected in sequence to create a small "train" of sorts, allowing multiple loads to be moved at once and significantly improving efficiency. The carts don't have to be pulled behind a tractor, as they can also be pulled with a handle (by hand) for smaller jobs. The size and maneuverability of the wagons are critical due to the site's topography and layout; the route between the truck and stage requires navigating driveways, buildings, shrubbery, and tight corners rather than open field access.

**Amount requested:** \$1,726.17

**Amount recommended:** \$1,726.17

**Comments:** Funding granted as presented.

**23. Name of organization: Oakville Early Learning Centre**

**Background of Organization:** Oakville Early Learning Centre is licensed, non-profit childcare centre providing care for children from 12 weeks to 6 years of age. The board is comprised of members from the community and parents of children in the centre. The centre receives funding from enrollment fees, as well as operating grants received from the Manitoba Government Early Learning and Child Care department. The daycare services families from the town of Oakville and surrounding areas, and provides quality care and learning opportunities for the children who attend. Members of the community are welcome to join the board at anytime at no cost.

**Project Description:** The items we are requesting funding for will benefit the programming provided to children at the centre. In our initial couple of years of opening, we have been careful spending money to buy new toys and materials for the centre as we got through our opening and built up our finances to be operational for over a year with the budget in place. The children and staff will both benefit from these items, as staff increase their range of programming for children, while the children will benefit from a variety of activities, including the development of their physical health and wellness. Some of the items requested will provide sensory opportunities for the children to explore different materials, colours, textures, shapes, etc. Through these activities, children will also develop fine motor

skills. The storage systems requested will allow staff to have increased organization and space to store materials and activities. The physical education/sports equipment will help children develop their gross motor skills. Musical equipment will help children develop their creative brains and continue being exposed to the benefits of music. Finally, dolls and additional food and utensils provides an opportunity for children to begin building skills they will need as they grow, such as caring for others and cooking/kitchen safety.

**Amount requested:** \$3,882.36

**Amount recommended:** **\$3,882.36**

**Comments:** Funding granted as presented.

#### **24. Name of organization: Prairie Fusion**

**Background of Organization:** Our organization is the artist hub of the Portage la Prairie area. Prairie Fusion Arts and Entertainment Inc. is a multifaceted organization that offers programming, performances, exhibitions, and unique events. We house a 400+-seat performance theatre, 3 gallery spaces, a dance studio, visual arts studio, and ceramics studio. We offer year-round visual and performing arts classes, which includes our award-winning ballet classes. We are primarily funded through the City of Portage, the Rural Municipality of Portage, the federal and provincial levels of government, the Manitoba Arts Council, and local funding bodies. We also receive donations and sponsorships annually, which are usually directed towards specific events and arts programming.

**Project Description:** We are hoping to upgrade/replace our existing kiln as it has continuous issues which have required multiple repairs. It is at the end of its lifespan and a new kiln is needed. Without a kiln our pottery programming is effectively at an end. The kiln is an integral part of the ceramics process, as it is what turns clay from its malleable form into a permanent and functional object. We have a whole age range of participants that take part in our pottery classes and is one of our most consistently attended classes. We also hope to expand our programming by opening up the studio to community members, allowing them to create and fire clay outside of classes through an open studio structure. As well, we are now in early stages of a partnership with Dakota Tipi First Nation to start instructing their youth through a series of programs. This will help to expand our participant base as we move into new territory and establish new community relationships. With a new kiln, we will be able to draw in even more registrants which will help to continue funding our ceramics programming. We rely heavily on community support to run our classes so having a new kiln will ensure we pull more people into our classrooms continually throughout the year. We also hope that by showing we are updating our visual arts infrastructure, it will attract new corporate sponsorship opportunities and open up new granting possibilities.

**Amount requested:** \$9,000

**Amount recommended:** **\$9,000**

**Comments:** Funding granted as presented.

#### **25. Name of organization: Portage Pitbulls Football Club**

**Background of Organization:** Portage Pitbulls Football Club provides a safe, structured, and inclusive environment where young athletes can develop their football skills, build character, and learn the value of teamwork and sportsmanship. Pitbulls Football promotes physical fitness, leadership, discipline, and confidence through organized football programming. We serve girls and boys ages 7–15 from diverse backgrounds within our local community. In addition to our regular-season tackle football teams, we provide free spring training clinics for any child interested in participating. Our club is funded through a combination of reasonable registration fees, local sponsorships, canteen/merchandise sales, and volunteer support. Registration fees help offset the costs of field rentals, league dues, insurance, and equipment. A significant portion of our operation relies on volunteer coaches, board members, and community supporters who donate their time and expertise.

**Project Description:** Our youth football organization is requesting funding to purchase 15 new football helmets to help ensure the continued safety of the athletes in our program. Our club serves approximately 100 children each year, who participate in practices, games, and development programs throughout the football season. Player safety is our highest priority, and properly maintained protective equipment is essential to providing a safe environment for our athletes. Football helmets have a manufacturer-recommended lifespan and expiration date due to normal wear, material breakdown, and evolving safety standards. Several of our helmets are approaching the end of their usable life and must be replaced to remain compliant with safety guidelines. Although we are requesting funding for 15 helmets, these helmets will benefit many more than 15 children over time. Because youth athletes grow and move through different age divisions, equipment is rotated between players each season. Before reaching their expiration date, each helmet will be worn by multiple athletes over several years, meaning dozens of children in our program will ultimately benefit from this investment in safer equipment.

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

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

**Comments:** Funding granted as presented.

#### **26. Name of organization: Portage Learning & Literacy Centre (#3) – Driving Forward**

**Background of Organization:** PLLC is a non-profit organization that supports individuals and families through education, employment, and settlement services. Its purpose is to help people build the skills, knowledge, and connections they need to take part in their community and become more independent. PLLC offers programs such as adult literacy and education, job search and employment training, newcomer settlement and language programs, and youth programs. The organization also provides supports such as an on-site daycare, volunteer opportunities, free low-income tax filing, and help accessing identification and basic technology services. PLLC mainly serves residents of Portage la Prairie and the Central Plains region, including low-income individuals and families, newcomers to Canada, youth building job skills, and adults improving their education or English.

**Project Description:** PLLC is seeking funding to launch Driving Forward: Driver Education for Independence and Opportunity. This program will address a major transportation barrier in Portage la Prairie. With no public transit system, a driver's licence is often required to access employment, education, childcare, healthcare, and other services. Many residents facing barriers to opportunity, especially newcomers, Indigenous community members, and low-income individuals, struggle to obtain a licence. Barriers include the cost of driver training, limited English skills, lack of access to a vehicle for practice, and anxiety about testing. The Driving Forward program will provide classroom instruction, supervised driving practice, and individual support to help participants prepare for written and road tests and gain confidence driving. Lessons will be adapted for participants with different English language levels. PLLC expects to serve 30–40 participants in the first year, primarily individuals connected to PLLC's employment, education, and settlement programs, along with referrals from community partners. The program will begin once funding is approved and will operate year-round. By helping participants obtain a driver's licence, the program will increase independence and improve access to jobs, education, and services.

**Amount requested:** \$8,500

**Amount recommended:** **\$8,500**

**Comments:** Funding granted as presented.

#### **27. Name of organization: Oakville Community Club**

**Background of Organization:** The Oakville Community Club Inc. is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization that supports and maintains key community recreational facilities in Oakville, Manitoba. These include the arena, community hall, curling rink, and sports park. Through these facilities the Club helps provide programs and events that benefit residents of all ages, including youth sports, a community Christmas market, student bursaries, and activities for seniors. The organization is funded through community donations, fundraising events, and rental income from the daycare operating within the community complex. The Oakville Community Club does not have a formal membership structure and there are no fees required to participate.

**Project Description:** The Oakville Community Club is requesting funding to construct a concrete pad and to install a secure storage container at the new Oakville Community Centre. The additional storage is needed to support both community centre operations and the daycare located within the facility. This one-time capital project will improve the functionality of the facility and support activities that benefit residents of all ages. The project is planned for completion during the summer of 2026. Ongoing maintenance will be managed through the Club's regular fundraising and operating revenues.

**Amount requested:** \$6,450

**Amount recommended:** **\$0**

**Comments:** Grant Committee noted that this does not strongly address a CFPD objective or community need.

#### **28. Name of organization: Red River Community College–Portage Campus- WITHDRAWN**

**Background of Organization:** RRC Polytech's Portage Campus is a post-secondary institution located in the Central Plains region of Manitoba. We offer full-time diploma and certificate programs, part-time courses, and workshops that support personal and professional development for learners at all stages of life. Beyond education, our campus plays a vital role in the community. We provide rental space to local school divisions and non-profit organizations, and regularly host community events in our accessible, historic facility. We are publicly funded and open to all learners. There are no membership fees, just tuition for programs. Our instructors bring real-world industry experience, and our small class sizes and supportive environment foster student success. We are committed to lifelong learning and meaningful community engagement.

**Project Description:** RRC Polytech's Portage Campus is requesting funding to deliver three full-day, free self-defense workshops for women, supporting at least 60 participants who face financial or social barriers to accessing safety training. These workshops will be offered in the evenings or weekends to ensure maximum accessibility. Each session will include:

- Practical self-defense maneuvers
- Confidence-building and situational awareness skills
- Violence prevention and safety planning
- Team-building and peer support activities
- Printed resource kits and take-home safety tools
- Video recording of instructor demonstrations for ongoing online access

RRC Polytech will collaborate with at least five local organizations including shelters, community support agencies, newcomer services, and Indigenous groups to ensure the workshops to ensure they reach women who are most vulnerable and least able to afford traditional self-defense courses.

**Amount requested:** \$4,100

**Amount recommended:** **\$0**

**Comments:** **WITHDRAWN**