

Portage Royal Canadian Legion Branch #65



Portage RC Legion President Lynne Payette (back); member Clark Quinn (front)

The Royal Canadian Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion has a long and proud history (over 100 years) of serving Veterans, remembering those who stand on guard for Canada, and helping build a stronger country and communities for all Canadians. The Portage Royal Canadian Legion Branch #65 has been organized since 1928, with the current building being its home since 1968.

Accessibility Upgrades Needed

The Portage RC Legion has been working to improve their building accessibility in order to best serve all members of the community, including aging or disabled Veterans. The bathrooms were upgraded to become

wheelchair accessible, and the ramp system inside the building was in need of upgrades to bring it up to acceptable safety standards. The CFPD Grants Committee felt the Ramp Upgrade Project proposed by the Legion was a worthwhile cause to fund, since a vast array of different local groups and individuals use this facility and the services they provide—and because safety was one of the challenges identified in the 2023 Community Assessment (which is a priority for CFPD to consider when making funding decisions).

New Ramp Built

With CFPD funding, the Legion was able to upgrade their interior ramp. The old carpet (which was worn out and a tripping hazard) was replaced with non-slip flooring over the ramp (which had become soft in places) and the two side corridors connected to the ramp. The result is a safer ramp system, which will also make for easier and less expensive maintenance and repair over the years.

Importance of Insuring the Royal Canadian Legion Remains Accessible

Since the Legion's main goal is to provide services geared toward helping Veterans and their families, and many of these individuals are seniors with mobility issues, it is of great importance for them to remove barriers in accessing those services. Veterans (and other visitors to the Legion) can now safely and comfortably enter the premises and access services such as assistance with applications for government benefits or mobility

devices, or to enjoy the many types of social programming available in the facility. Events such as BBQs, dinners, karaoke, craft sales, bingo, dart & shuffleboard tournaments, etc. held at the Legion allows members to socialize and share meals with others—something very important to mental health and the feeling of connection to others, particularly for seniors. Our Veterans have sacrificed so much for this Country and the freedoms we all enjoy today, and currently serving police and military personnel continue to work to protect these freedoms and safety of our communities. CFPD is proud to have funded such an important project that has positive benefits for these valued groups and the community at large.



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