



Grant Committee Report November 2025

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 36 grant applications were received. Two of these applications did not get their documentation submitted on time (despite reminders from staff) and thus were not brought forward to the committee for consideration.

Several applications were submitted incomplete at the deadline. Staff sent reminders and applicants had 24 hours (until end of day October 16th) to submit missing documentation. Lorna relayed to the grant committee the appropriate scoring on the matrix in accordance with completed applications. There have been several issues with late/incomplete final applications. A new grant agreement has been created to specifically highlight the responsibilities of the organization accepting a grant. (see attached)

The amount requested from the 36 applications was \$763,101.72 and CFPD has allocated \$206,214.13 for this Fall Grant Cycle.

The Grants Committee met on October 23rd, 2025, to review & discuss the applications.

The following report from the grants committee includes details on all applications evaluated as well as the 13 projects the committee is recommending for funding totaling \$206,598.13.

The Grant Committee also recommends the board utilizing the Lion's Club Fund Interest Income to be allocated to Prairie Fusion's project.

Some changes were made to the scoring matrix/application to ensure they are aligned with each other. (See attached)

CFPD DISBURSEMENT AMOUNT AVAILABLE: \$206,802.07

Sector/Objectives of CFPD			Disbursement Amount Available	\$	206,802.07		
Social Services							
Arts and cultural activities							
Medical services							
Physical fitness and health			Difference	\$	587.94		
Education							
Environment							
Child welfare, Youth Development, Family Well-being							
Other activities of a charitable nature							

1. Name of organization: Portage Oddfellows Lodge #3

Background of Organization:

The Oddfellows Lodge is a local branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (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 fundraising; 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:

The Oddfellows Lodge seeks funding to install automatic door openers to improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities as well as seniors. This will benefit approximately 450-1000 people who attend Lodge events, social events, and meetings. The project will be funded by this grant, with additional support from fundraising and donations. Future maintenance will be covered by membership dues and ongoing fundraising efforts. This initiative will ensure our Lodge is accessible and welcoming for all.

Amount requested: \$16,740

Amount recommended: \$16,740

Comments: Committee felt that this was a worthwhile project that impacted a larger group of people. Was well rooted in funding an initiative which targeted seniors and accessibility in our community.

2. Name of organization: Highway Community Kitchen

Background of Organization: The Highway Community Kitchen is located in the basement of the Highway Pentecostal Church. It is a spin off from the previous soup kitchen that was located there for a brief time. Members of the Church and volunteers from the previous soup kitchen realized that there was a need for a soup kitchen at this location because there were 25-45 people utilizing this service daily, so a new group of volunteers formed and reopened as the Highway Community Kitchen in January 2025. We now have a strong Board who are committed to providing food security to low-income families in the area. We have monthly meetings and have the full support of the Church. We provide, on average, 35 full-course meals each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at lunch time at no cost to clients.

Project Description: The Church has allowed us to use their kitchen, appliances, cookware, etc. at no cost. With the funding applied for we intend to purchase our own appliances, cookware, and serving materials. Because we pay no rent, they have asked us to purchase our own appliances and cookware. We plan to increase our social media presence. As well, we are hosting a luncheon and will invite local media, local politicians, and business people, in the hopes that this will increase the number of donations so we will be self sustainable.

Amount requested: \$8,038

Amount recommended: \$8,038

Comments: Several board members were invited to attend a lunch at this location and hear about this organization. It was felt that the members of the Highway Community Kitchen who had been involved in their previous application were no longer serving members. The new board of directors at the Community Kitchen have demonstrated their accountability and self-start initiative to separate themselves from the previous group. Food security falls solidly under the social services objective.

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

Background of Organization: The Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba Foundation supports four *Chance 2* Programs: C2Camp, C2Grow, C2Play, and C2Learn.

Children ages 5-17 can apply for funding. Participation in the activities associated with these programs gives children the opportunity to challenge themselves and their abilities. Helping to build self confidence and self worth. We believe these experiences are an important investment in the future of our children and our 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 its 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.

Amount requested: \$2047.36

Amount recommended: \$0

Comments: The Grant Committee noted that this application had merit, however there are not enough funds to cover all the application requests. Projects which impacted larger groups of people and addressed objectives of CFPD were given priority. Their letter of decline will encourage them to reapply in Spring 2026.

4. Name of organization: Portage la Prairie Family Resource Centre

Background of Organization: Our vision is to be a support for all families in Portage la Prairie and surrounding area. We do this by:

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

Project Description: The Family Resource Centre in Portage provides vital services to families in our community. Despite the high demand for our programs, many families are unaware of the resources available to them and our programs. We often hear untrue statements of "you're only for low-income families" or "you're only for middle-class, white moms"—and we want to make our message clear that we are here for everyone. With our 25th anniversary coming up we would love to create a video that reflects who we are and what we do, in order to dispense the myths and celebrate our continued involvement in community. There is

opportunity for all families in Portage to benefit from the project because a better understanding of what we do can help them find community support and build their own support network. We would like to complete the project this year so we can unveil it as part of our 25th anniversary year of being a registered charity.

Amount requested: \$5825

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: The Grant Committee noted that this application had merit, however there are not enough funds to cover all the application requests. Their letter of decline will encourage them to reapply in Spring 2026.

5. Name of organization: Islamic Association of Portage la Prairie - DISQUALIFIED

Background of Organization: The Islamic Association of Portage la Prairie is a registered non-profit community organization, established in 2016, to serve the growing Muslim community in Portage la Prairie and surrounding areas. Currently, our congregation gathers at Trinity United Church, who generously provide space for Friday prayers. Our long-term vision is to establish a permanent multicultural community centre in Portage la Prairie. We are committed to nurturing youth, supporting the marginalized, and engaging with the wider community through outreach, education, and shared events. Guided by our core values we strive to preserve the diversity of Portage la Prairie while also contributing to its vibrancy. As a non-profit, we are primarily funded through donations from community members, local fundraising, and occasional grants. Membership is open to all in the region, and there is no fee to join. Participation is inclusive, and our doors are always open to anyone wishing to learn about the community or to share in our community spirit.

Project Description: These funds will be dedicated to hiring an architect to lead the design and planning phase of our proposed multicultural centre. This work will include the creation of detailed drawings, architectural plans, and other essential preparatory components that will form the foundation for the construction process.

Amount requested: \$60,000

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: Requested documentation was not provided by the grant application deadline. Application was not forwarded to the grant committee for consideration. Letter will be sent to applicant encouraging them to reapply and reach out in advance of the deadline so staff can provide assistance with a complete application submission.

6. Name of organization: Malayali Association of Portage la Prairie

Background of Organization: MAP is a newly established non-profit cultural organization formed by the Malayali community in Portage la Prairie. Malayalis are a community originating from the state of Kerala in South India, known for their rich traditions in language, literature, arts, festivals, and values of unity and hospitality. Our association was founded to provide a platform for Malayalis in Portage la Prairie to preserve and celebrate our cultural heritage, while also contributing positively to the broader community through cultural exchange, volunteerism, and collaborative initiatives. As MAP is in its formative stage, grant

support is especially vital to help us build a strong foundation. Initial funding will assist us in establishing organizational infrastructure, hosting cultural and educational programs, and creating opportunities for community engagement. These early efforts are essential for building connections not only within our community but also with other cultural associations and residents of Portage la Prairie, promoting inclusivity and mutual understanding.

Project Description: We wish to hold a family get-together and annual day celebration (including a traditional feast). This event is designed to introduce Malayali culture to the people of Portage. It also provides a platform for the younger generation to showcase their talents in arts and other cultural activities. In addition, the gathering aims to bring families together in a welcoming atmosphere where they can relax, connect, and enjoy each other's company.

Amount requested: \$2500

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: The Grant Committee noted that this application had merit, however there are not enough funds to cover all the application requests. Projects which impacted larger groups of people and addressed objectives of CFPD were given priority. As a result of the increase in cultural group applications, a matrix score was added to address this. Their letter of decline will encourage them to reapply in Spring 2026.

7. Name of organization: Portage la Prairie Handivan Inc.

Background of Organization: Portage Handivan is a non-profit community-supported service providing safe and affordable wheelchair-accessible transportation for seniors aged 55 and older and anyone who has a mobility issue or disability. We prioritize rides for a wide range of essential and meaningful activities, including (but not limited to): work, education, medical appointments, adult day programs, shopping, business, recreation, family visits, funerals, and weddings. The Portage Handivan services the City of Portage la Prairie, the RM of Portage, and our indigenous communities. Currently we receive grants for our core operating costs from City of Portage la Prairie, RM of Portage, and the Province of Manitoba.

Project Description: We are intending to add to our fleet a more economical wheelchair-accessible van to meet the increased demands of our service. We currently have one bus (14-passenger) that runs in town from 7:00 am until approximately 4:30 pm. We have an additional smaller bus that goes out of town and takes their appointments outside of Portage to other communities. We currently are not meeting the demand for this wheelchair service for out-of-town medicals over the last 6 months. We have the drivers but the demand is very high. Between just the two buses we are booked already. So far up to and including August, 2025 we have provided accessible transportation to 3300 people and 1525 of those riders were strictly wheelchairs. Just adding one more vehicle will make a lot of difference. The Handivan sets aside money every year for future replacement. We are not expecting to replace for a few years.

Amount requested: \$40,000

Amount recommended: \$40,000

Comments: Grant Committee noted that only 2 vehicles for the size of Portage and Area is not enough for the current demand for this service. Committee members noted other communities of similar size have more buses for these purposes.

8. Name of organization: Prairie Tabletop Gaming

Background of Organization: Prairie Tabletop Gaming (PTG) was created to provide a free, inclusive, and safe space for all members of our community to share their hobbies and engage in play. With the help of Prairie Fusion providing a space for us to rent, we have been able to build a small library of free board games people can use during our events. We are currently funded by snack sales, raffles, and any small donations that members or their families generously give us. Our clients include young adults, families, seniors, and school-age children.

Project Description: We are requesting funding to purchase a lockable rolling shelf to store our games library, as well as purchasing some games of various skill levels so that we can have a variety of free games for clients to use at our game nights. This will help our organization, as many people who come do not have their own games to bring. We will also have one of our Board members available to play with and teach new games to new members using this library, as a way to help people who may otherwise have a harder time in crowds. The timeline for this project is to have the shelf and games by the end of the year. We have a game event in January and we would advertise the library prior to the event. This will directly benefit low-income groups and people who struggle with social settings. By having free games that will always be available, and someone to play with, it will help ensure that everyone is welcome.

Amount requested: \$900

Amount recommended: \$900

Comments: *New Applicant* this organization is offering free spaces for gaming/hobbies of all kinds in an accessible space. Grant Committee felt this small request was reasonable given the spectrum of citizens who may utilize and benefit from this programming.

9. Name of organization: Portage Ukrainian Nursery School

Background of Organization: Portage Ukrainian Nursery School provides Portage la Prairie and surrounding areas with inclusive early learning childcare for children aged 3-6. Our purpose is to encourage healthy development of physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and language skills, creating meaningful connections and facilitating a positive home-like environment that respects the individuality of the children. We emphasize a variety of themes such as empathy, inclusion, diversity, and creativity to foster a love of learning through play. As we are part of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Plan (CWELCC), we are able to offer half-day (3 hours per session) childcare at a cost of \$5 per session. Additionally, our program is funded through donations and fundraising efforts.

Project Description: Portage Ukrainian Nursery School is seeking funding to continue our annual Art Show. It is a community-focused initiative to engage children in the joys of artistic expression, connecting families and the wider community in a celebration of early childhood creativity. The project will result in a public children's art show which will be held in the Prairie Fusion Art Gallery at the end of the school year for a month-long exhibition. The art show will feature artwork created by the 83 children who attend our nursery school. Admission will be free and open to all, with the goal of creating a joyful, inclusive experience for families, caregivers, community members, and out-of-town visitors who visit the gallery. In previous years, the art show has been a financial loss for our school, but we continued the tradition because the benefit has been so apparent, not just for the school-children and their families, but for the community as a whole. To make this possible, we are requesting funding for the following items: Art supplies (canvases, acrylic and water-colour paints, brushes, paper); Printing (ink cartridges and professional printing fees for brochures, artists name tags, artist statements, guest book, etc.); Display/Hanging supplies (cardstock, clothes pins, Velcro strips, wire, labels); Miscellaneous supplies (painter's tape, glue, string/twine); and Shipping fees.

Amount requested: \$1755.86

Amount recommended: \$1755.86

Comments: Grant Committee noted this fell under arts and cultural activities within the CFPD objectives. The partnership with Prairie Fusion and the accessibility of the final result ensures the audience for this project is community wide.

10. Name of organization: Portage Infant Memorial Garden

Background of Organization: The Portage Infant Memorial Garden Committee is a volunteer, not-for-profit group creating a lasting memorial in Island Park, Portage la Prairie. The Garden will offer a peaceful space for families to remember infants lost too soon. The committee plans, develops, and maintains the site, which includes the central granite Memorial Stone, benches, and landscaping. Funding comes entirely from community donations, grants, and sponsorships. There are no membership fees, and local volunteers contribute their time and skills to support and maintain this meaningful community project.

Project Description: The Portage Infant Memorial Garden Committee is requesting a \$5,000 Grant to help purchase and install patio stones for the main foundation and two walkways leading into the Infant Memorial Garden at Island Park. This project will complete the Garden's main structure, which includes a central granite memorial stone, benches, walkways, and landscaping. The Garden will benefit families across the community and surrounding areas by providing a lasting and meaningful public space.

Amount requested: \$5000.00

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: The Grant Committee noted that this application had merit, however there are not enough funds to cover all the application requests. Projects which impacted larger groups of people and addressed objectives of CFPD were given priority. Their letter of decline will encourage them to reapply in Spring 2026.

11. Name of organization: Portage & District Recycling

Background of Organization: Portage & District Recycling is a not-for-profit, registered charity, that provides recycling services to the City and RM of Portage and surrounding areas. PDRI provides curbside and depot collection of household recyclables, E-waste, and household hazardous waste. PDRI is funded through recycling contracts and the sale of commodity.

Project Description: PDRI is requesting funding for a new truck. This will assist in picking up curbside and commercial recycling in the City and RM of Portage, and 19,000 residents will benefit from this project.

Amount requested: \$72,808.96

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: The Grant Committee noted that this application had merit, however there are not enough funds to cover all the application requests. Their letter of decline will encourage them to reapply in Spring 2026.

12. Name of organization: Portage Daycare (Southport location)

Background of Organization: Portage Day Care Southport is a non-profit organization which provides quality care to children ages 18 months to 6 years in an environment that supports positive play and learning experiences. We provide quality care to children whose parents work for the military and other jobs in Southport and surrounding areas, are seeking employment, or attending school.

Project Description: We are looking to purchase a commercial-grade dishwasher for the Southport site, as we don't have one, and have been washing dishes 3- 4 times a day for the past 9 years. This is time-consuming and stressful on the staff, as the loads of dishes we have to wash after serving snacks and meals to 28 children can be overwhelming! Having a dishwasher would benefit everyone who attends the center in the following ways:

- the staff would have more time to spend with the children as they wouldn't be in the kitchen so many times a day washing dishes in a time-consuming 3-sink washing/sanitizing process.
- our center could stop purchasing plastic and paper dishes in bulk, which we do regularly to avoid having to wash so many dishes. These are not environmentally friendly and are very expensive.
- the dishes would always be sanitized properly in a dishwasher, with the water temperature always being at the appropriate level and the drying time much shorter.

Amount requested: \$8991

Amount recommended: \$8991

Comments: Grant Committee felt that this related to multiple sectors; child welfare, youth development and family well-being. Project was well considered.

13. Name of organization: La Verendrye School

Background of Organization: La Verendrye School has 400 students from K-8 with varying levels of support required, approximately 40 EAL students, and approximately 285 self-identified indigenous students. LVS is now a community school which received the designation based on indigenous population and low socioeconomic status of the families of students. We have 60 staff employed to facilitate the free Manitoba public school curriculum.

Project Description: We intend to build an addition to the front play structure that currently exists, plus add an additional play structure and natural play area to the west side of the building towards the back of the school. This would allow more students to play at one time. By changing the layout, adding swings, and expanding the play areas, this will allow all of our 400 students the opportunity to participate in recreational physical activity. Also, newly upgraded structures will allow for accessibility for our students who currently struggle to participate/play on them.

Amount requested: \$125,000

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: The Grant Committee noted that this application had merit, however there are not enough funds to cover all the application requests. Their letter of decline will encourage them to reapply in Spring 2026 and potentially explore separating this larger project into smaller phases to increase funding possibilities.

14. Name of organization: Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra

Background of Organization: Since its debut 1948 performance, the WSO has been a powerhouse orchestra that regularly impresses guest conductors and artists with the exceptional musicianship of its members. The WSO's mission is to be an orchestra of international caliber that programs, performs, and promotes the art of symphonic music. The WSO produces 80+ live performances each year, reaching up to 100,000 people. In addition to concerts in Winnipeg, the WSO annually tours to other communities within Manitoba, such as Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Steinbach, and Wasagaming.

Project Description: We are excited to bring the Holiday Tour back to Portage la Prairie in December 2025 and astound local audiences with a performance at the Prairie Fusion Arts and Entertainment Centre, to roughly 450 people. To fund the Holiday Tour, we rely on funding from grants, tickets, and small sponsorships.

Amount requested: \$10,000

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: Declined as the application was noted to contain expenses related directly to ongoing operational costs. The WSO annually performs in Portage and thus these expenses are noted to be ongoing regular programming costs and outside of the mandate of the CFPD community grants.

15. Name of organization: Portage Service for Seniors

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; sales of Meals on Wheels and congregate meals; and donations of cash, produce, and groceries. 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.

Project Description: For this project, we will provide nutritious and delicious meals to low-income seniors at no cost to them, either in a congregate setting or through Meals on Wheels. We will partner with Manitoba Housing, CMHA, and the Portage Friendship Centre to identify those in the greatest need to make them aware of the program, and to confirm age (age 60 and over) and obtain proof of low-income status. With previous grants we are currently able to provide 1 meal per week to 74 individuals and funds are set to run out in December of 2025. If we receive this grant, we hope to extend the program, and allow for new, eligible applicants to join the program.

Amount requested: \$5384.00

Amount recommended: \$5000

Comments: Service for Seniors partners with other notable organizations in Portage and provides more than just meals. The committee noted that the provision of meals make a substantial difference in many citizens' lives. The requested cost for advertising is not covered (\$384).

16. Name of organization: Southern Health–Santé Sud Mental Health & Addictions

Background of Organization: Southern Health-Santé Sud is a designated bilingual service delivery organization providing health-care needs over an area of 27, 025 square kilometers, including 21 rural municipalities, 7 municipalities, 4 cities, 4 towns, 1 village, 1 unorganized territory, 7 First Nation communities, and many other cultures and communities including Métis, Hutterite, Francophone, and Mennonite. Southern Health-Santé Sud is funded through a combination of federal and provincial tax revenues. Southern-Health-Santé Sud provides a spectrum of quality health care services, including those that support mental health and addictions. Mental Health and Addiction clients come from a wide variety of backgrounds. We offer clients a range of supports from psychoeducation, relapse prevention, advocacy, consultation, skill building, and community development. Services assist individuals regain hope by becoming active partners in their recovery journey to improve the quality of all aspects of life, including social, occupational, educational, residential, financial, and spiritual.

Project Description: The Wellness Through Creativity Program supports both Intensive Case Management program participants and Canadian Mental Health Association program participants, and is also open to community members. This class has an average of 10 participants and has had as many as 15; many of these participants attend weekly. The class instructor provides a significant amount of her own personal art resources to ensure the class can have new and innovative creative experiences, such as print making, gel print, and quilt making—therefore this grant request is to purchase supplies.

Amount requested: \$2048

Amount recommended: \$1148

Comments: Grant Committee approved all Wellness Through Creativity costs (art supplies) but declined to support the purchase of; bikes helmets and locks, as the committee felt our current social climate was such that these items would be a capital expense that would not be able to continue due to the high incidence of theft of these items.

17. 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. For those who wish to curl at our club, fees are very low. In our last curling season, 2023-24, 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 the annual 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. 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.

Amount requested: \$75,000

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: The Grant Committee noted that this application had merit, however there are not enough funds to cover all the application requests. Projects which impacted large groups of people and addressed objectives of CFPD were given priority. Their letter of decline will encourage them to reapply in Spring 2026.

18. Name of organization: Portage Judo Club

Background of Organization: The Portage Judo club is a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching the fine art of the Judo discipline. Judo is not only good for self-defense, but is a great physical activity promoting strength, stamina, balance, and coordination. The Judo community also teaches the participants mental strength such as improved concentration, discipline, confidence, sportsmanship, perseverance, and self-respect. The Portage Judo Club instructors and administrative staff volunteer countless hours of their time and expertise to make our club successful and affordable. The Portage Judo Club club expenses are paid through registration fees and fundraising events, including the yearly Portage Judo Club tournament attended by clubs from all around the province, and some from Ontario and Saskatchewan. The Portage Judo Club's goal is to keep the annual fees low to allow anyone the opportunity to participate.

Project Description: The Judo Club usually plans to replace the mats every 10 years and budget for this in the annual fees for the kids. The current mats purchased in 2020 were only used for 3 years due to the pandemic but are now falling apart. Several times during the class a break has to be taken to push the mats together to ensure safety. When holding competitions the Portage Judo Club has no alternative but to tape the current mats together. The manufacturer isn't honouring the warranty, and the Club simply hasn't had a chance to save up enough yet to replace them. These new mats will benefit the 600-plus participants in the Portage Judo Club over the next 10 years and will guarantee the club can continue into the future. A new and reputable mat supplier has been located, and we anticipate once purchased these new mats will last the 10 years intended.

Amount requested: \$22,280.15

Amount recommended: \$22,280.15

Comments: Grant Committee sees the benefits of aiding self-start community groups who offer recreational opportunities as well as "free" trials to youth. This is a *NEW* applicant.

19. Name of organization: Herman Prior Activity Centre

Background of Organization: The Herman Prior Activity Centre (HPAC) is a non-profit, charitable organization established in 1984. Its purpose is to provide a welcoming and affordable community space that supports social, physical, and mental well-being of seniors and residents of all ages from Portage and the surrounding districts. HPAC offers over 27 weekly programs and activities that include fitness classes, arts and crafts, support groups, educational sessions, and musical entertainment. The Centre also operates a daily meal program offering affordable, nutritious lunches and take-out and delivery options. In addition to our in-house programs, HPAC rents space to several essential community organizations such as Portage Service for Seniors, Alzheimer Society of Manitoba, Sunset Palliative Care, Foot Care by Shweta, and Prairie Independent Living Services. Funding for HPAC comes from a combination of membership fees (\$30 per year), room rentals, activity fees (\$1-\$3 per session), fundraising events, donations, and grants from The City of Portage, Rural Municipality of Portage, Southern Health, and CFPD. The Centre currently has over 770 members and serves as a vital hub for community connection and senior engagement.

Project Description: The Herman Prior Activity Centre is requesting funding to purchase portable sound-absorbing room dividers. These dividers will help reduce noise, provide privacy, and allow multiple programs and rentals to occur simultaneously within the auditorium and the crocus room. At present, we utilize stage curtains and poles to divide the rooms. These makeshift dividers are very difficult and awkward to continually move, which increases the risk of injury to staff and volunteers. In addition, the constant movement of the curtains and poles causes damage to both the poles and the floors. With over 27 weekly activities and increasing membership, the Centre is facing space and noise management challenges. Many of our activities—such as exercise programs, presentations, and support group meetings—are held in shared spaces, often resulting in noise overlap that makes hearing and concentration difficult, particularly for older adults with hearing challenges. The installation of mobile dividers will create flexible, private spaces for programs, rentals, and community use.

Amount requested: \$6872

Amount recommended: \$6872

Comments: Grant Committee is highly aware of the high use of this centre and their ongoing efforts to ensure they are viewed as an activity centre to be more inclusive of all groups within our region. They have low to no cost activities and this project will continue to allow them to provide their services to the community by enhancing their programming capabilities.

20. Name of organization: Oakville Early Learning Centre

Background of Organization: Oakville Early Learning Centre is a licensed, non-profit childcare centre providing care for children from 12 weeks to 6 years of age. The board comprises members from the community and parents of children in the Centre, and the executive director of the Centre. The Centre receives funding from enrollment fees, as well as operating grants received from the Manitoba Government's 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 any time at no cost.

Project Description: The items we are requesting funding for will benefit the programming provided to children at the Centre. The children and staff will benefit from these items, as staff can increase their programming ideas, and further increase positive aspects of the workplace. Children will benefit from increased storage which in turn increases the activities and programming they can receive. The walkie talkies will support staff in communicating between the preschool and infant rooms in the Centre. Staff will not have to leave the room to communicate with the other staff, and can use the walkie-talkies to transmit information. They are also beneficial for learning opportunities outside of the Centre, as staff can use the walkie-talkies on walks around the community where children learn in the natural environment. The tuft trays and light table will provide children with sensory opportunities to explore different materials, colours, textures, shapes, etc. This will help children develop their fine motor skills as well as items vary in size.

Amount requested: \$1822.13

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: The Grant Committee noted that this application had merit, however there are not enough funds to cover all the application requests. Projects which impacted larger groups of people and addressed objectives of CFPD were given priority. Their letter of decline will encourage them to reapply in Spring 2026.

21. Name of organization: Association of Filipinos

Background of Organization: The Filipino Association of Portage la Prairie is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to celebrating Filipino culture, fostering community connection, and supporting the successful integration of Filipino newcomers into the broader Portage la Prairie community. Our purpose is to promote cultural pride, unity, and mutual understanding through social, educational, and cultural activities that bring together both Filipino and non-Filipino residents. We organize events such as cultural celebrations, youth engagement activities, family gatherings, and community outreach initiatives that highlight Filipino traditions and values. The Association is funded through community donations, membership contributions, fundraising activities, and occasional grants from public and private partners. Membership is open to all individuals and families who share an interest in Filipino culture and community building, and there is no fee to join.

Project Description: We are seeking funding to launch a Winter Basketball League that will run from January 2026 to March 2026. This initiative aims to (1) provide youth and adult participants with a safe, inclusive, and engaging environment to stay active during the winter months, and (2) foster camaraderie, a strong sense of friendship and gracious competition among the participants. The league will promote physical health, teamwork, and community spirit while addressing the lack of accessible recreational opportunities during the colder season.

Amount requested: \$8392

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: The Grant Committee noted that this application had merit, however there are not enough funds to cover all the application requests. Projects which impacted larger groups of people and addressed objectives of CFPD were given priority. Their letter of decline will encourage them to reapply in Spring 2026.

22. Name of organization: Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Background of Organization: The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Portage la Prairie is a faith-based, non-profit organization dedicated to serving the spiritual, cultural, and community needs of Ukrainian Canadians and residents of the broader Portage la Prairie area. Our purpose is to provide a welcoming place, preserve Ukrainian cultural traditions, and foster a sense of fellowship, compassion, and belonging among all who enter our doors. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church is funded through congregational offerings, fundraising events, community donations, and grants that support cultural preservation and community engagement. Membership is open to all who wish to participate in the life of the parish, and there is no formal fee to join, though voluntary contributions help sustain programs and maintenance of the church.

Project Description: This renovation project directly advances the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Portage la Prairie's mission to provide a welcoming space that nurtures faith, preserves culture, and builds community. Upgrading the basement, adding new bathrooms, flooring, lighting, and accessible features, will allow the Church to safely and comfortably host year-round programs such as children's cultural lessons, community meals, and newcomer welcome activities. The improved facility will also serve as a venue for local partnerships and outreach, strengthening relationships across generations and cultures.

Amount requested: \$19,982

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: The Grant Committee noted that this application had merit, however there are not enough funds to cover all the application requests. Projects which impacted larger groups of people and addressed objectives of CFPD were given priority. Their letter of decline will encourage them to reapply in Spring 2026.

23. Name of organization: Central Plains Safe Ride

Background of Organization: Central Plains Safe Ride Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing impaired driving and promoting road safety in our community. We provide safe rides for individuals who have been impaired by alcohol or other substances, and our Operation Red Nose program offers a valuable service during holidays and special events. All funding that we receive from our Operation Red Nose Campaign beyond operation costs goes into the hands of local Youth organizations.

Project Description: We are seeking seed funding to support the launch and operational costs of our Operation Red Nose campaign for 2025. Operation Red Nose is a vital program that provides safe rides for individuals who have been impaired by alcohol or other substances during holidays and special events. Your funding will help us cover essential expenses such as volunteer training and coordination; technology upgrades and maintenance; marketing and promotional materials. Your support will enable us to provide a safe and reliable service to our community, reducing the risk of impaired driving and promoting a culture of road safety.

Amount requested: \$7474.50

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: Grant Committee noted that many of the requested expenses can be seen as operational expenses and thus fall outside of the CFPD mandate. Encouragement will be to reapply next year, with a potential emphasis on non-operational funding expenses.

24. 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: We are seeking funding support to purchase a newer, more reliable van to enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of our youth and family programs. Our current vehicle—a Toyota Sienna with over 300,000 kilometers—is nearing the end of its operational lifespan. It has required frequent repairs, including multiple replacements of broken door handles due to heavy use. Reliable transportation is critical to our mission. The van enables us to transport youth to and from programs, facilitate summer day trips and outreach activities, and shuttle families to large community events. The purchase of a new, dependable van will allow us to continue removing transportation barriers and provide equitable access to our programs.

Amount requested: \$15,000

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: The Grant Committee noted that this application had merit, however there are not enough funds to cover all the application requests. Projects which impacted larger groups of people and addressed objectives of CFPD were given priority. Their letter of decline will encourage them to reapply in Spring 2026.

25. Name of organization: Lions Foundation of MB and NW Ontario

Background of Organization: The Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario is a registered charitable organization that has been serving communities for over 40 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.

Project Description: Every child deserves the same chance to grow, learn happily, and thrive in life, no matter where they live or what their family's situation is. This belief is at the heart of Bringing Care Closer, 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 Northwestern Ontario, including Portage la Prairie and surrounding areas where active Lions Clubs are present. Screenings will be quick, non-invasive, and performed by certified volunteers. Families will receive immediate results and referrals to professionals when needed. The project helps remove barriers caused by poverty and lack of transportation, bringing essential care directly to communities and ensuring early detection of vision and hearing issues that can affect learning, social development, and well-being. We aim to screen approximately 40,000 children during the first year of operation.

Amount requested: \$20,000

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: Grant committee examined the list of expenses and felt that the cost requested was greater than the number of individuals in our region who would be served by this program. The request is denied with a suggestion to redefine the number who would be served by this project and set the request to be more in line with the total served in Portage and District.

26. Name of organization: Portage la Prairie Regional Library

Background of Organization: The Portage la Prairie Regional Library is a cornerstone of our community, offering a broad range of services in addition to an extensive collection of materials available for loan. We provide access to a multi-purpose room for non-profit community groups and organize programs that aim to educate, entertain, and engage individuals of all ages. Our in-house programs are free and open to all, encouraging participation from everyone in the community. Our services are designed to be inclusive, with free access to computers, study areas, and programs, regardless of library membership. We also offer a variety of valuable community resources, including exam proctoring services, radon screening kits, blood pressure monitoring kits, air quality sensors, and a seed library. Additionally, we facilitate interlibrary loans to expand access to a wider array of materials. The library is funded by the City and Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie, as well as the Province of Manitoba. Regarding memberships, which offer borrowing privileges, they are free for residents of the City and Rural Municipality, while a fee applies to non-residents.

Project Description: The Portage library is seeking funding to revamp our Multi-Purpose Room, a vital space used year-round for free community programs serving children, tweens, teens, adults, and seniors. This space is also booked over 100 times annually by local non-profits and organizations, making it one of our most in-demand community resources. The upgrades we are proposing will ensure the room remains welcoming, functional, and accessible for everyone in our community. The Multi-Purpose Room is truly a well-used and essential hub for our community. However, after years of heavy use, it is in urgent need of a revamp to continue meeting the growing needs of the public.

Amount requested: \$57,489.53

Amount recommended: \$57,489.53

Comments: This highly used space is considered a hub of the Region for non-profit organizations and free library programming. Grant Committee felt that this served multiple sectors.

27. Name of organization: Westpark School

Background of Organization: Westpark School is a faith-based institution aligned with Prairie Alliance Church, focusing on academic excellence and spiritual growth within a supportive learning environment. The school has a student population of around 240 students, with an average class size of 17 students and a teacher-to-student ratio of 1:8.

Project Description: A Teacher Voice Uplift System is a technology solution that amplifies and clarifies a teacher's voice in a classroom, ensuring students can clearly hear instructions, discussions, and lessons. By using a wireless microphone and strategically placed speakers, the system reduces background noise and

echo, creating a more focused learning environment. For students, this means they can better understand and engage with the material, leading to improved academic outcomes and increased confidence. The system is particularly beneficial for students who struggle with hearing or processing auditory information, such as those with special needs or English language learners. For teachers, the system reduces vocal strain and fatigue, allowing them to teach more effectively and maintain their energy levels throughout the day.

Amount requested: \$3991.64

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: The Grant Committee noted that this application had merit, however there are not enough funds to cover all the application requests. Projects which impacted larger groups of people and addressed objectives of CFPD were given priority. Their letter of decline will encourage them to reapply in Spring 2026.

28. Name of organization: Ronald McDonald House of Manitoba

Background of Organization: Ronald McDonald House Manitoba keeps families together and close to the care their child requires by providing a safe, supportive, and compassionate environment as families navigate the challenges of childhood illness or injury. When a child is ill or injured, the hospital takes care of the child, and Ronald McDonald House Manitoba takes care of the family. Ronald McDonald House is a home away from home for rural Manitoba and Northwestern Manitoba families who must travel for their child's medical care. In 2024 alone Ronald McDonald House Manitoba helped families save over \$3.5M in out-of-pocket expenses related to accommodation, meals, and transportation. Families are welcome to contribute \$10 a day to support the operations of Ronald McDonald House Manitoba. All families with a pediatric patient are eligible to stay at Ronald McDonald House and Ronald McDonald Family Room. The daily value of service and supports offered to families is \$315+ per day. No family will ever be turned away for their inability to contribute.

Project Description: Ronald McDonald House Manitoba is applying for a \$1000 grant from the Community Foundation of Portage and District to support the Hygiene Kit Program, which provides essential personal care items to families who stay at Ronald McDonald House or the Family Room. These kits ensure that families who are far from home have immediate access to basic hygiene necessities such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, and other essentials, so they can focus on their ill or injured child.

Amount requested: \$1000

Amount recommended: \$1000

Comments: Grant committee felt that the number of local citizens who used these spaces far outmatched the request. Grant Committee felt strongly that this was a worthwhile request.

29. Name of organization: Bear Clan- DISQUALIFIED

Background of Organization: There are no membership fees to join Bear Clan. Bear Clan is a local community group whose aim is to help people and prevent the need for police and authority interventions. This is achieved in a non-violent, non-threatening, and supportive manner—primarily through relationship building and reconciliation. The Bear Clan offers help, information, supplies, and respect to all community members. The Bear Clan provides services such as volunteer Bear patrol walks on a weekly basis in our neighbourhoods. These patrols provide emergency support, food support, community clean-ups, and safe needle pick-ups.

We also provide clinics, garbage pick-up, a book lending library, and a food cupboard right outside the Bear Den. We also provide support for large events such as safety at parades, winterfests, vaccination clinics/screenings, and also reading books at schools. The Bear Clan is funded through grants and donations from locals and organizations.

Project Description: With our project, we are aiming to provide a safe emergency drop-in location for people that are struggling. This project would aim at opening a community-focused safe location for anyone that is struggling—whether that is with housing, food, cultural, or medical reasons. This program, along with staff and volunteers, will provide a safe place to take a shower, use the washroom, do laundry, have a snack/meal, and receive a self-care package (shampoo/soap/towel/toothbrush/toothpaste, etc). We will offer a warm place during the winter and cool place in the summer months for our community members struggling with homelessness. They would also have access to a computer or phone if they needed. We would also be able to connect them to community resources that they could utilize.

Amount requested: \$19,010

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: Despite multiple reminders (email and phone call), documents were not provided in time for this project to receive consideration. New staff at PCRC will be contacted directly to see if assistance is needed before the next grant intake to ensure an application is successfully submitted.

30. 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 Mic & Jam Nights, 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 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 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. We are also planning a "Christmas Spectacular" show with a 6-piece Winnipeg band ensemble.

Project Description: We are requesting funding for the 2025-26 Homestead Concert Series, a fall/winter season featuring 5 touring local & international acts, and a "Christmas Spectacular" show featuring Red Moon Road on Dec 12 at Trinity United Church. Plans for this year's concerts are already underway (our second annual run), and our organization is looking to secure funding from the CFPD to give a boost to the 2025-26 series and launch the Christmas show. Our goal for this year is to get the series firmly up and running so that we can continue reaching new audiences and sustaining the concerts for years to come. To fund the project into the future, we plan to secure local sponsorships while building up our paid attendance and local awareness.

Amount requested: \$3750

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: Expenses requested were for operational expenses. It will be noted in their decline letter that capital costs could be a better submission for future applications.

31. Name of organization: RRC Polytech Portage Campus

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 and 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 seeking funding to establish a centrally located community kitchen that will serve as a space for culinary arts education and community food programming. This inclusive kitchen will provide hands-on learning opportunities in cooking and life skills, while also supporting local non-profit organizations in preparing meals, snacks, feast, and fundraising events. At launch, the kitchen is expected to provide meals for 75 people per week, with plans to grow to 150 people per weekend. Prepared food will be distributed through the community cupboards and Bear Clan patrols, addressing critical food access gaps, particularly since local soup kitchens only operate weekday lunches.

Amount requested: \$36,000

Amount recommended: \$36,000

Comments: Grant Committee was impressed by this complete application which demonstrated clear partnerships, education and provision of services to assist with food insecurity.

33. Name of organization: Royal Canadian Legion Branch #65

Background of Organization: Royal Canadian legion Branch #65's mission is to serve Veterans (which includes currently serving military and RCMP members, and their families); to promote Remembrance; and to serve our communities and our country. Our primary activities involve providing a social space for Veterans and community members, with our clientele generally being 55+. Examples of these activities are weekly bingo, dart and shuffleboard tournaments, karoake, craft sales, and monthly veteran breakfasts and dinners. Importantly, we provide assistance to Veterans and their families with applying for benefits, advocacy, and military funeral service arrangements. We provide post-secondary bursaries for students who have a connection to Veterans.

Project Description: The plan is to do several fundraising activities to offset the cost of a new furnace. The furnace is the original furnace that was installed in 1968, and Cobbe's Plumbing & Heating has estimated it probably will not last more than 1 year. It is an old building and many members and non-members have complained it's drafty and cold in the building with inconsistent heating. The Legion would benefit from a new furnace through increased energy efficiency and lower operating costs, and greater reliability and reduced maintenance, in addition to improved air quality. The funds would allow for the Legion to continue all the positive activities it organizes in the community.

Amount requested: \$50,000

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: The Grant Committee noted that this application had merit, however there are not enough funds to cover all the application requests. Their letter of decline will encourage them to reapply in Spring 2026.

34. Name of organization: BTB Basketball Training

Background of Organization: BTB Basketball is a youth-focused sports organization dedicated to helping kids learn the fundamentals of basketball and develop their skills both on and off the court. Our mission is to provide high-quality basketball instruction in a positive, supportive environment that promotes confidence, teamwork, and personal growth. We offer a variety of services including skills camps, group clinics, and personal basketball training sessions tailored to different age groups and skill levels. Whether a beginner or an advanced player, every athlete receives focused coaching to help them improve and reach their full potential. BTB Basketball is primarily funded through the fees collected for camps, clinics, and individual training sessions. However, there is no membership fee to join—families simply pay for the programs they choose to participate in.

Project Description: BTB Basketball is requesting funding to purchase basketballs and pinnies for use in our youth training camps and clinics. These items are essential for running effective drills, team activities, and improving the overall training experience.

The new equipment will benefit around 100 young athletes and will be in use starting this season. While this grant would cover the initial cost, future equipment needs will be funded through program fees and small fundraising efforts to keep the program sustainable.

Amount requested: \$3500

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: The Grant Committee noted that this application had merit, however there are not enough funds to cover all the application requests. Their letter of decline will encourage them to reapply in Spring 2026.

35. 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.

Project Description: We hope to upgrade equipment in our drawing studio and office. Our biggest item we are hoping to upgrade is the projector for our drawing studio. Instructors have been using an antiquated overhead projector and the bulb recently burnt out. To replace the bulb is too costly for a machine as old as it is. Our instructors are in need of new technology to best teach their students. We are also hoping to improve the working conditions in our office by purchasing a

stand-up desk attachment for a staff member facing increasing mobility issues, and new chairs for better support. Our office chairs are broken in different areas, creating orthopedic problems.

Amount requested: \$1500

Amount recommended: \$0

Comments: Grant Committee did not have enough funds to support this project, but determined funding from the Lion's Manor Fund would be provided in order to support this project.

36. Name of organization: Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service Foundation (STARS)

Background of Organization: STARS exists to provide critical care, anywhere, whether by air, ground, or virtually. The focused expertise in critical care ensures that STARS is the best hope in a worst-case scenario. We hire the best nurses, paramedics, and doctors, and train them to tackle the toughest cases they'll see in their career. The most pivotal advantage of our helicopter ICUs is that patients start receiving life-saving care right away. For the members of the Portage La Prairie community, what happens in those first moments can be the difference between life and death, or permanent damage versus full recovery. Since 1985, STARS has flown over 63,000 missions across Western Canada. In our last fiscal year, we had 3,694 missions. Of those calls, 1,233 were in Manitoba.

Project Description: STARS invites CFPD to support our highly specialized medical equipment that helps the STARS Air Medical Crew to provide the highest level of critical care to the Portage area residents. We are asking that you consider funding to support the purchase of one Hamilton T1 Ventilator. It is designed to provide respiratory support for critically ill patients during transport. It is a compact, portable, and versatile ventilator that can be used in various environments, including in ambulances, helicopters, airplanes, and other transport settings. It combines the functionality of an ICU ventilator with the portability needed for transport, making it suitable for patients of all ages from neonates to adults. Your gift in support of medical equipment allows us to keep our tools functioning at top performance. Each piece of equipment in the back of a STARS helicopter plays an integral part in supporting our mission of saving lives.

Amount requested: \$20,000

Amount recommended: \$0.00

Comments: The Grant Committee noted that this application had merit, however there are not enough funds to cover all the application requests. Their letter of decline will encourage them to reapply in Spring 2026.