

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



Portage la Prairie
Community
Revitalization
Corporation

*"Working with the community, for
the community"*

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204-240-PCRC (7272)

2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Diboll, Chair

Cassandra Pehura, Vice President

Jody Fletcher

Ryan Espey

Darren Spence

Matt Harkness

Brandwyn Kinnear, Treasurer

Dave Roberts, Secretary

Dana Geisel

STAFF

Mari Kozar, Executive Director

Sherri Walker, Office Manager

Rachel Templeton, Community Facilitator

Randy Lilley, Indigenous Seniors Coordinator/Peer Coach

Alicia Bailey, Indigenous Seniors Coordinator

Lauren Mckay, PUIPC Indigenous Community Coordinator

Alexa Kowerchuk, Wawokiya Coordinator

Tawnee Kowerchuk, Reaching Home Coordinator

Mitch Tilk, Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator

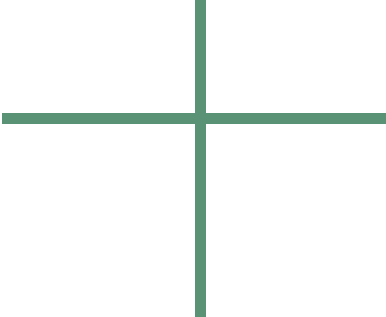
Abosedede Jogunosinmi, Cultural Connector

Rachelle Sissons, Community Engagement Coordinator

Pauline Johnston, Community Aunty

Shaun Haubrick, Wawokiya Housing Intensive Case Manager

Kimberley Sharp, Wawokiya Housing Intensive Case Manager



Taylor McCarson, Reaching Home/Youth Hub Coordinator

Stacey Sharp, Youth Mentor

Shaye Lernowicz, Youth Hub Coordinator

Sherifat Kareem, Wellness Coach

Michelle MacIver, Wellness Coach

Nadine Key, Wellness Coach

Alicia Kasto, Wellness Coach

Rachel Henan, Wellness Coach

Malavika Monesh, Wellness Coach

Jacinda Houle, Cultural Support Navigator

Olivia Gabriel, Addictions and Cultural Support Navigator

Justine Richardson, Youth Mentor

Joshua Hillier – Summer Student

Kaylin Myran – Summer Student

Tyson Prichette – Green Team

Cordien Johnston – Green Team

STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The past year at PCRC has been one of major undertakings as we expanded into youth programming and deepening our efforts and collaboration on established programs.

Since the beginning of my time at PCRC in 2019, I have seen a resounding snowball effect of change within our community. With each new project, I am reminded how supported we are by others in Portage la Prairie. Be it partner organizations, our Board of Directors, our funding organizations or individuals who value the work that we do, when we are in need of support, the call is answered. I have seen strengthened working relationships and many looking to work outside of the box, adding a real Portage difference to projects and programs.



STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our Youth Hub project has been no different. We have seen immediate community support for the efforts and strong collaboration to ensure we are filling gaps and working diligently to work upstream to prevent harm before it occurs. For the past 5 years, applications were submitted for funding for a youth support project for a safe place and somewhere they could receive services just for them. This year we were fortunate enough to gain funding for not one youth driven project, but three!

It's a privilege to lead an organization tasked with such important project work, but more importantly it is a privilege to lead a team that shows daily dedication to doing the work. Community development work is often unglamorous but the team at PCRC, continues with positivity and smiles on their faces day in and day out. Cheers to another year of community change.

Sincerely,

Mari Kozar

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

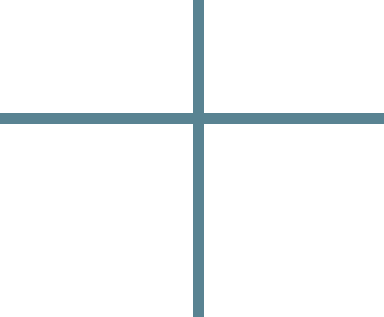
This is my second year with the PCRC. I find that I am learning many new things about the organization almost on a weekly basis. I have come to appreciate all the work the staff does, especially our Executive Director. There are so many branches to the organization and she has a firm grip on all of it.

We are very pleased to have the start up of our new Youth Hub. There is a definite need in the community and our central location on Portage Avenue is well placed for individuals to access the facility. The new staff have embraced their roles and everything seems to be moving along just fine. We continue to partner with many other organizations in the community that provide vital help and support to those in need.



There are a couple of new members on the Board this year and we really appreciate what they bring to the table. I am looking forward to another exciting year as we move into some new challenges and expand what we do best... helping those in need.

Sincerely,
Mark Diboll



Annual General Meeting

5pm - Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Welcome, Everyone!

Greetings from Mari Kozar, Executive Director

Greetings from Mark Diboll, PCRC Board Chair

Greetings from the City of Portage la Prairie

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of Minutes from the 2024 Annual General Meeting

Presentation – Youth Hub Project

Financial Report

Elections to the Board

Closing Remarks

Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation

Annual General Meeting – October 22, 2024

In attendance: Brandwyn Kinnear, Matt Harkness, Dana Geisel, Dave Roberts, Mari Kozar, Sherri Walker, Mark Diboll, Darren Spence, Cassandra Pehura

Regrets: Donny Smoke

1. Greetings & Adoption of Agenda

Greetings from the ED, Mari Kozar.

Mark called the meeting to order and gave the address from the Chair.

City of Portage la Prairie Councillor, Ryan Espey, brought greetings on behalf of the City of Portage la Prairie.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Mark: The agenda for today's Annual General Meeting has been included in your packages.

I would like to call for a motion: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Moved: Dana Geisel

Seconded: Dave Roberts

3. Adoption of Minutes

Mark: The Minutes of last year's Annual General Meeting have been included in your packages. Are there any errors or omissions?

I would like to call for a motion: To adopt the minutes of the PCRC Annual General Meeting dated October 17, 2023.

Moved: Brandwyn Kinnear

Seconded: Matt Harkness

4. PCRC Presentation:

Video celebrating our Communities Building Youth Futures Project.

5. Financial Report

Mark: A copy of the Board Approved audited financial statements for 2023-24 has been included with the Annual Report. Chantelle Murray is here to present them.

Chantelle Murray: presented financial statements.

I would like to call for a motion: To accept the Audited Financial Report 2023-2024 as presented.

Moved: Brandwyn Kinnear

Seconded: Darren Spence

Mark: A part of our AGM is selecting an auditor for the coming fiscal year.

I would like to call for a motion: To appoint MNP as the auditor for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Moved: Dana Geisel

Seconded: Matt Harkness

6. Elections to the Board

I would like to call for a motion: that Cassandra Pehura be named as the Vice Chair of the PCRC Board of Directors for the upcoming year.

Moved: Matt Harkness

Seconded: Brandwyn Kinnear

I would like to call for a motion: that Brandwyn Kinnear be named as the Treasurer of the PCRC Board of Directors for the upcoming year.

Moved: Cassandra Pehura

Seconded: Dave Roberts

I would like to call for a motion: that Dave Roberts be named as Secretary for the PCRC Board of Directors for the upcoming year.

Moved: Dana Geisel

Seconded: Brandwyn Kinnear

We would like to thank Alana Daniels for her time over the past year on our board along with Matt Boschman who spent several years working on our treasurer reports with his financial expertise.

7. Closing Remarks

***I would like to call for a motion: To
adjourn the 2024 Annual General Meeting
of the PCRC at 5:43***

Moved: Dave Roberts

Seconded: Brandwyn Kinnear

 OCT 22/24

Signed & Date (Board Chair)

 OCT 22/24

Signed & Date (Vice Chair)

Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation

Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2025

	2025	2024
Revenue		
Grant revenue (Note 10) (Schedule 1)	1,708,180	1,352,797
Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation grant	243,318	262,272
Small grants (Note 11)	37,500	37,500
Rental income	35,425	37,750
Donations and events	27,673	25,836
Miscellaneous	25,807	62,333
Interest income	15,500	17,293
Amortization of deferred contributions (Note 6)	497	678
Work experience	389	3,416
	2,094,289	1,799,875
Expenses		
Advertising and donations	20,859	9,679
Amortization	60,560	53,472
Conferences	38,429	19,271
Contracted services	40,500	19,682
Events	96,443	-
Fees, dues and registrations	5,477	1,364
Grants	34,869	277,217
Insurance	16,888	39,626
Interest on long-term debt (Note 7)	12,862	13,477
Miscellaneous	28,032	22,192
Office and miscellaneous	41,605	18,445
Participant costs	342,549	164,060
Professional fees	27,405	11,443
Program related training	41,488	28,843
Rent - land and buildings	79,186	22,800
Repairs and maintenance	31,331	49,795
Salaries and wages	896,782	858,566
Small grants (Note 11)	37,500	37,500
Supplies	64,867	55,418
Travel expenses	38,074	38,987
Utilities	31,409	28,954
Total expenses	1,987,115	1,770,791
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenses	107,174	29,084

WAWOKIYA PROJECT

This year, Wawokiya received 28 referrals, with over half being accepted as clients. Those not accepted into the program were still provided with immediate assistance, such as help with filling out documents, quick connections to direct services, and occasionally assistance with groceries. The top risk factors this year were consistent with last year's trends, with mental health and addictions remaining at the forefront. Basic needs, including housing, food, and clothing, were also a significant concern.

To enhance their knowledge and skills, the Wawokiya coordinator has participated in numerous training sessions and workshops. These include Land-Based training on Indigenous medicines and practices, a workshop on "Leading Through Change" by the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CEDNET), an information session on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), a crime prevention presentation by the RCMP, and training on the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA). Additionally, the coordinator successfully completed a Mental Health First Aid course, obtaining certification, and attended a Business Training and Engagement Forum focused on climate action as well as an internet safety information night.

Wawokiya has been actively participating in various meetings and events. The coordinator attended the Annual MCMSI Meeting (Manitoba Community Mobilization and Safety Initiatives), a three-day conference hosted by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness in Halifax, N.S., quarterly System's Leadership meetings, and a tour of the new location of the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network. The coordinator also met with Jeff Bereza to provide insights into the organization's programs and participated in quarterly meetings of the Flourishing Communities Advisory Group.

WAWOKIYA PROJECT

In terms of new initiatives, Wawokiya successfully concluded its Emergency Food Fund initiative in July and August, distributing hampers to families in need within the community. The organization launched the Community Safety and Wellbeing project, with the coordinator participating in initial training sessions and ongoing meetings to ensure continuous progress.

Another significant achievement was the funding approval for the "Mashkiki Tetibis" program, which aims to support individuals involved with both the justice system and Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) as they transition into the workforce. This initiative represents a significant step forward in empowering community members.

Additionally, Wawokiya secured the "Family Violence Initiative Fund" grant, which was used for capacity building, benefiting both the coordinator and community partners. We were able to hold several training opportunities with this funding.

Wawokiya has also been engaged in various community activities and events. The coordinator presented information on the new Medicine Wheel program at an Indigenous Seniors Gathering. During February and March, the coordinator played a crucial role in staffing the Emergency Warming Shelter, providing essential support to houseless individuals in the community during harsh weather conditions.



WAWOKIYA PROJECT

Wawokiya has received inquiries from community members interested in donating hampers for families in need during the holiday season, demonstrating the community's generosity. These hampers have started rolling in and have been handed out accordingly. The organization continues to hold regular bi-weekly advisory table meetings, accepting new clients regularly and providing ongoing support to existing clients. Wawokiya also assists in brief interventions for individuals who need one-time help.

Overall, Wawokiya has been engaged in a wide range of activities, including client support, professional development, community engagement, and networking with relevant organizations. These efforts demonstrate a strong commitment to providing comprehensive services and staying informed about relevant topics and initiatives. The accomplishments and ongoing efforts reflect the dedication to the mission of PCRC: working with the community to create a stronger and more vibrant Portage la Prairie.

Wawokiya looks forward to building on these successes in the months ahead and continuing to empower citizens, enhance neighborhoods, foster community spirit, and strengthen community organizations.



MEDICINE WHEEL

The Mashkiki Tetibis Project was launched with the vision of supporting individuals facing employment barriers through a holistic, culturally grounded approach meant to ensure basic needs and mental health supports. Rooted in the teachings of the Medicine Wheel, the program recognized the importance of balancing mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being as a foundation for workforce readiness.

The program ensured that the building blocks of personal stability were established before building connections for program participants to services in the community that existed like practical tools such as resume writing, job application support, and interview preparation connections. As a result, nine participants successfully secured employment, each moving closer to long-term stability and independence. Essential work gear—including boots and clothing—was provided, helping participants feel confident and prepared for the workplace. Access to cell phones was also made possible, ensuring participants could stay connected with employers and seize opportunities.

Recognizing that employment success depends on more than just skills, the program offered wraparound supports. Families received grocery assistance, easing immediate financial stress and allowing participants to focus on their job search. Mental health was another cornerstone: counselling sessions were funded for several clients, and many shared that they would not have been able to access this life-changing support without the program.

MEDICINE WHEEL

An Elder joined the program to share teachings, offering participants a powerful opportunity to reconnect with their roots. Language revitalization was supported through the distribution of Dakota and Ojibwe flashcards, which were enthusiastically received as meaningful steps toward cultural pride and learning.

While engagement patterns and scheduling preferences taught us valuable lessons, the program's flexibility ensured that participants' voices shaped the direction of our work. The experience demonstrated the importance of meeting community members where they are and reinforced our commitment to adapting programming to better align with their needs.

Though challenges were encountered, the Mashkiki Tetibis Program made a real difference in the lives of 26 participants. From helping individuals enter the workforce, to strengthening cultural identity, to supporting mental health and basic needs, the program showed the power of a holistic model. Most importantly, it provided hope and practical tools that participants can continue to build upon.

Looking forward, the lessons learned from Mashkiki Tetibis will guide future programming to ensure even stronger outcomes for our community. The foundation has been set—one that blends cultural teachings with practical supports, empowering individuals to thrive both at work and in life.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

In April the Earth Day event that was held at North Memorial school attracted 70 kids. We had tables set up symbolizing the 7 teachings with stamps at each to complete a bingo sheet. Each table had indigenous books, beading, snacks, drumming and the indigenous game, fox tail. Ajidamoo was walking around handing out orange frisbees to all the kids.

In May our Spring beautification days had a lot of participants from all the elementary schools in our community. I was happy to reward Camille Sanderson's grade 7 class at La Verendrye School with a pizza party for their efforts in cleaning up garbage around their school. The Touch a Truck event had over 500 attendees held at the BDO Centre for the Community. Over 20 different units volunteered from local businesses and the city for kids to sit in and explore. CO-OP supported the event with hot dogs, juice boxes and volunteers. Gen Ag donated freezies and YFC supplied their BBQ. Bear Clan was a huge help as well as Family Resource and Reaching Home. PCRC supported Bike Week with the Yoga in the park event with Lynne Bereza, held at the duck pond on a beautiful sunny day. This event attracted 28 participants who arrived on their bikes.



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

PCRC supported the June 21st event held at the Island Park. The National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration had a huge turn out and success thanks to local organizations and attendees. Portage la Prairie School Division had all grade 4 classes attended so all of our activity tables were kept busy. PCRC had a beading table, story table and coloring table. Ajidamoo walked around and handed out orange Frisbees to all the kids.



July and August included support with the Canada Day BBQ for Bear Clan, assisting with ordering, picking up and transporting supplies. Our community had been selected to participate in the 2024 Miracle-Gro Best Garden Selection program from Scotts Canada. The Communities in Bloom committee is excited to present local gardeners with a beautiful sign to display in their yards with our city logo and two different types of Miracle-Gro products. From July 12th, until August 16th, winners were chosen each week. The Communities in Bloom Judges' tour, showcasing our community was supported. The Communities in Bloom Conference is being held in our community this year so I have been busy with the committee planning the upcoming event in October 20.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

In October, the Communities in Bloom Committee hosted the 2024 Communities in Bloom Conference at the Herman Prior Centre on Saturday, October 19th. The event welcomed 38 attendees and featured Kellie Verwey, who spoke on tourism, James Kostachuk, who presented on local history, and Wilbert Ronald, who shared insights on trees.

In November, Prairie Fusion was supported through several fundraisers. The community engagement coordinator designed PLAP socks and toques and supported the fundraising sale, resulting in 80 pairs of socks sold, generating a profit of \$640, and 68 toques sold, bringing in \$1,088. Additionally, support for the Candy Gram fundraiser, where 20 were sold, raising \$400 in profit for Prairie Fusion. In-kind donations from Mayfair for printing and from Portage Supermarket for all the ingredients needed for the hot chocolate cones, ensuring 100% profit for Prairie Fusion



Another highlight was our annual Skate with Santa event. Simplot generously donated ice time, and we supported Visions of Independence to provide free hot chocolate for our guests. The event featured plenty of gifts, prizes, and candy canes for our young skaters, attracting approximately 100 attendees this year.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

January hosted Winterfest which was held once again at La Verendrye School with excellent weather for the event. Outdoor activities included horse-drawn wagon rides, snowshoeing, and gathering around the fire. Indoors, the school gym held activities like inflatable axe-throwing, a magic show by Chris Kitchen and his assistant Cazden Momen and bouncy castles, while families enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies and Bannock dogs. Winterfest, a well-loved annual event, was made possible through the efforts of several community partners, including the Portage Regional Library, Portage Bear Clan, and the Family Resource Centre. The event saw approximately 300 people throughout the afternoon. The event saw free 7 Sacred Teachings, a new children's book about safety, written by Leah O'Leary and illustrated by local artist Annie Beach. The book was created as part of the library's collaboration with other Winterfest partners.



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Connecting communities supported the International Women's Day 2025 celebrations in partnership with Central Plains Cancer Service, Portage and District Chamber of Commerce and the Military Family Resource Centre. This was the 10-year anniversary of the event which was sold out and featured local speaker Sophia Smoke, and keynote speaker, Jessie Cruickshank



COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

SMALL GRANTS

The Small Grants Program funded by the Government of Manitoba had a record number of applications this year with sixteen (16) total applications!! The Committee approved thirteen (13) with a total of \$35,125.00 being disbursed throughout our community!! Not only is this great for our local organizations but it's absolutely wonderful for our community!! We strongly encouraged those that did not get approved this year to reapply for next round!

Applicant Name	Project Name	Primary Category	SGF Amount Approved (\$)
Whoop and Holler Folk	Folk in the Park	Well Being	\$1,250.00
Royal Canadian Legion #65	Legion Week	Community Connecting	\$2,500.00
Holiday Avenue Project	Lighting of the Trees Vopni Park	Well Being	\$5,000.00
Portage Friendship	National Indigenous Day	Community Connecting	\$2,500.00
Portage Service for Seniors	Signs and Services	Capacity Building	\$985.00
Portage Local Immigration	Community Karaoke Nights	Community Connecting	\$2,000.00
United Way & Manitoba Harm	Wellness Day	Community Connecting	\$2,500.00
Family Resource Centre	New Programs	Capacity Building	\$1,665.00
Portage Regional Recreation	Kayak and Canoe Rental Upgrades	Well Being	\$2,500.00
Central Plains Basketball	It's not about Basketball, It's	Well Being	\$2,225.00
Portage Learning and Literacy	Bicycles for Success Lending	Economic Development	\$4,900.00
Prairie Fusion Arts &	Free Fusion Family Fun	Capacity Building	\$4,600.00
Sunset Palliative Care	Dinner of Hope	Well Being	\$2,500.00

SMALL GRANT SUMMARY INFORMATION

Breakdown of Grants	
# of Projects	16
# of Approved	13
# of Declined	3
# of Withdrawn	0

Financial Impact	
Funds Requested	\$61,612.00
Funds Approved	\$35,125.00
SGF Paid Out	\$35,125.00
Funds Leveraged	\$147,894.00

Participation Overview	
People Served	14 976
Volunteers	276

Breakdown of Projects by Primary Category	
Capacity Building	3
Wellbeing	5
Stability	0
Community Connecting	4
Economic Development	1



Holiday Avenue Project receiving Small Grant funding for their Year-Round Lighting of Vopni Park!



Royal Canadian Legion #65 receiving Small Grant funding for their Legion Week!!

FUNDING APPLICATIONS COMPLETED OR ASSISTED BY COMMUNITY FACILITATOR:

Application	Description	Funder	Amount	Partner
Community Grant	PLAP Socks	Portage Community	\$2,000	Prairie Fusion Arts
From the Ground Up	Public Washrooms at	Government of Manitoba	\$50,000	City of Portage & Parks
Heritage Canada	Sept 30th Events	Government of Canada	\$6,000	City of Portage
<u>Orange Shirt Fund</u>	Paint the Town Orange	Government of Manitoba	\$15,000	Urban Indigenous Seniors Coordinator
Accessibility Fund	Accessible Playground	Government of Canada	\$50,000	PCRC
Community Collaboration	Support for Elders	Age Friendly Manitoba	\$10,000	Urban Indigenous
Canada Summer Jobs	Two (2) Summer Students	Government of Canada	\$9,000	PCRC and other local
Green Team	Two (2) Green Team members	Government of Manitoba	\$2,900	PCRC, UISC
Community Grant	Skate Park Lights	Portage Community	\$13,445	Parks Committee
Community Grant	Wodichiya – Share Food	Portage Community	\$14,500	Reaching Home
Community Grant	Safety in Numbers	Portage Community	\$6,000	Portage Bear Clan
Community Grant	Candy Gram	Portage Community	\$400	Prairie Fusion Arts Centre
Healthy Living Grant	Winterfest 2026	Southern Health-Santé	\$2,000	Suta Kachicha
Total Funds			\$181,245	

COMMUNITY FACILITATOR



The Community Facilitator has assisted with many organizations over the last year including; Parks Committee, Bear Clan, Family Resource Centre, Red River Polytech, Portage Friendship Centre, Portage Urban Indigenous Peoples Coalition, Wawoikya, Reaching Home, City of Portage la Prairie and Suta Kachihca.

With helping these organizations allowed the Community Facilitator to provide support to many different projects including Ajidimoo Earth Day, Touch a Truck, Suta Kachicha Path Gatherings, Bear Clan's Canada Day BBQ preparation, Skate Parks Grand Opening (which was a huge success!) Skate with Santa and the Santa Parade plus many more!! The Community Facilitator also had the honor of attending a Ribbon Skirt/Vest making workshop with local knowledge keeper Jeanna Emms.

The Community Facilitator also provided support to the Kenora Chamber of Commerce and the City of Kenora, as they were seeking guidance on our Graffiti Removal Program. The Community Facilitator also assisted the National Indigenous Residential School Museum with grant research and preparation for a proposal to secure funding for a new staircase, an important infrastructure upgrade to improve accessibility and preserve the site



COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

The Community Facilitator also assisted with overseeing the (2) Canada Summer Student jobs along with the two (2) Green Team members. The two summer students help with all programs and other organizations such as the soup kitchen and welcome wagon. The green team is responsible for the graffiti removal, cleaning up garbage and maintenance of the garden goodie boxes!

On another note, PCRC had the honor of hosting a visit from the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, Honorable Anita Neville.



YOUTH HUB



Since opening the doors in October, the Youth Hub has been a connecting place to improve the lives and bridge the gaps for youth ages 12–29 in Portage la Prairie and surrounding areas. The Youth Hub creates a community space where youth feel safe to seek help without judgement, with as many services and resources as possible in one easy to access location. The Youth Hub aims to remove barriers and address the needs of the youth providing a space to access wellness coaching with a brief solution focused approach, addictions support, cultural navigation, connection, and support, peer mentorship, service navigation, and programming that includes cultural land-based learning, life skills, health and wellbeing, group supports, and peer connection.

The Youth Hub is supported by three major funding streams, each dedicated to areas of youth development and support. The funding streams allow us to reach youth in a wide range.

YOUTH HUB

Public Safety Canada through the Crime Prevention Action Fund- Learns by Heart program focuses on creating safer communities by reducing the risk that lead youth toward crime and strengthening the supports that keep them on a positive path. Focusing on targeted prevention and intervention efforts, including our anti-gang strategy, aims to help youth who are vulnerable or experiencing gang pressure build resilience, access resources, and stay connected to opportunities for a more positive future.

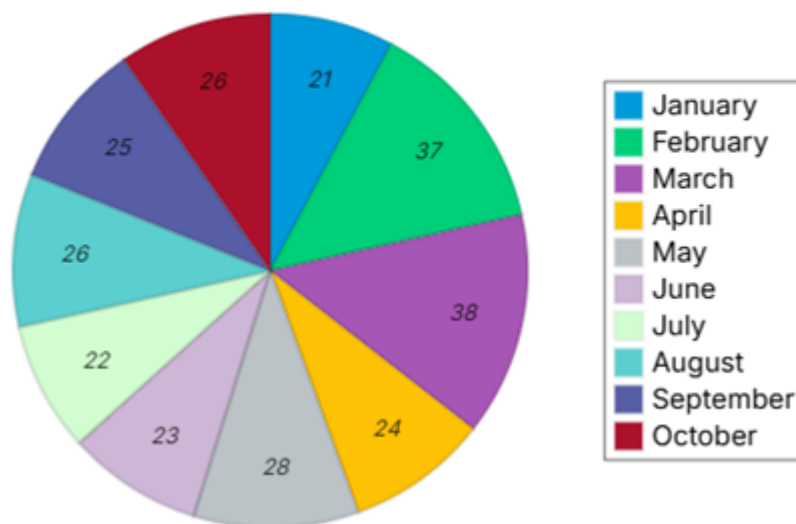
Over the past year we have accomplished establishing a safe space for youth to gather, connect, feel supported, and get connected to resources. Within this space youth have access to dedicated addiction support and cultural connection services. These resources ensure that youth can receive guidance for their well-being while staying connected to their cultural identity in a safe and welcoming environment. Our team is trained to ensure the safety and well-being of every youth. Staff receive training in non-violent crisis intervention, CPR& first aid, cultural awareness, gender diversity, and understanding the unique needs of vulnerable individuals and youth involved in the justice system.



YOUTH HUB

Youth Hub Events in 2025

270 events were held throughout the year



The Youth Hub has offered consistent programming beginning in January 2025. Participation in programming provides meaningful activities and skill-building opportunities while creating a way for youth to connect with staff, access supports, and strengthens their sense of belonging within the community. Programming is offered in four major categories: cultural connection and land-based learning, wellness and self-care, life skill building, and recreation. The Youth Hub has had the privilege of serving over 2200 youth visits through appointments, referrals, and drop-in programs.

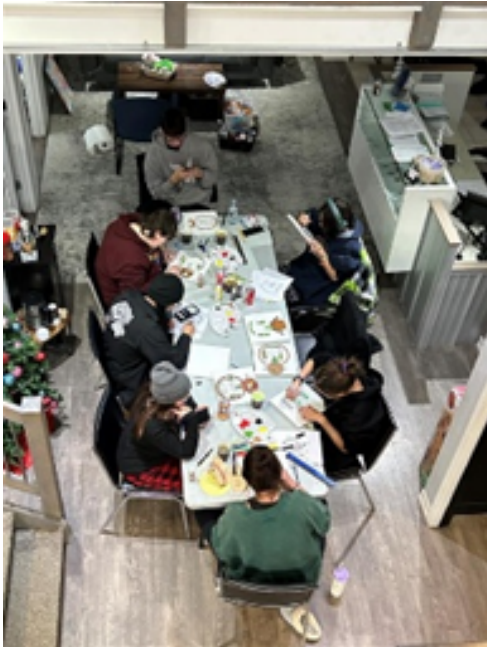
	Culture	Wellness	Life Skills	Recreation
January	11.5	3.5	2	4
February	9	4	14	10
March	9	2	18	9
April	4	4	12	4
May	9	3	12	4
June	6	7	6.5	3.5
July	8	4	9	1
August	9	6	8	3
September	4	7	8	6
October	3	7	10	6
Totals	72.5	47.5	99.5	50.5

Public Safety Canada through the Guns and Gangs fund focuses on reduction of risk factors to ensure success of youth. The project ensures youth voices shape everything we do. Guided by our Youth Advisory Committee, we work to ensure programs, services, and spaces reflect what young people truly need and want. The committee plays an active role led by peer supports, hosting roundtable discussions, helping design our spaces, shaping programming, and even contributing to media presentation. They also represent youth perspectives at community presentations, ensuring youth are at the center of the focus at the Youth Hub.

Over the past year our Youth Advisory Committee has played a key role in shaping our programs and strategies. Their insights have helped us understand the real challenges youth face and ensure our interventions truly reflect their needs and experiences. They also helped create a safe and welcoming space where youth can feel supported, connected, and have access to the resources they need. By giving youth a voice in decision-making, we're making sure they feel heard, valued, and part of creating a stronger, more inclusive community.

This year, we began developing an upstream comprehensive Guns and Gangs Strategy to support youth to make healthy choices and build protective factors. Our approach focuses on prevention and early intervention, offering positive alternatives and supports that meet the needs of young people in our community. Through mentoring, counseling, skill-building workshops, and recreational opportunities, we aim to provide youth with strong role models, safe spaces, and the tools to make positive choices. This strategy is about creating pathways for youth to thrive and build brighter, safer futures.

YOUTH HUB



Funded by the Government of Manitoba, Department of Families, Youth Connect is aimed at making youth transitioning out of Child and Family Services (CFS) care. This stream focuses on critical needs like mental health and housing, and others who face barriers to services. By providing transportation and a welcoming space, we'll help remove challenges identified by local youth—such as limited access to safe gathering spaces and difficulty navigating multiple organizations. This initiative will ensure youth can connect to the right resources, build stability, and feel supported every step of the way.

This year, we focused on building strong connections with youth transitioning out of care to ensure they feel supported and connected into adulthood. We provided resources such as hot meals, one-on-one coaching, school support, and life skills programs to help them gain independence and confidence. Within our safe and welcoming environment, we also offered opportunities to connect with culture and community through meaningful activities, including land-based learning and cultural identity programs. These efforts are helping youth feel empowered, connected, and supported all in one place.

REACHING HOME

This past year, Reaching Home continued to support people in our community who are facing housing challenges, food insecurity, and other barriers. Some days that meant helping someone find a warm place to stay. Other times, it meant months of ongoing support to help someone get housed or access services. Through it all, our team stayed committed to showing up with care. With help from local partners, donors, and community members, we made meaningful progress together.

Meeting Urgent Needs

This past winter, we partnered with Microtel to offer temporary rooms to people who were sleeping outside. Twelve people used our emergency suites during the coldest months. The impact was immediate—people had a safe, warm place to land, even if just for a few nights.

Beyond emergency shelter, our team helped 51 people and their families secure housing this year. Every housing success was backed by consistent, wraparound support: applying for the Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit, connecting with EIA, replacing lost ID, and everything in between. In one case, we supported a client through their entire treatment journey—from first conversation to successful intake.

Learning and Growing

We know that the work we do is always evolving, and we're committed to learning as we go. This year, our team took part in a number of trainings, including:

- Case management and wraparound care
- Compassion fatigue
- Harm reduction (MHRN 3.0)
- LGBTQ2S+ awareness
- Supporting sexually exploited youth
- Ethics of helping
- Human rights advocacy
- HIFIS data system training
-

These sessions helped us deepen our understanding, improve our practices, and better respond to the needs of the people we serve.

REACHING HOME

We believe that housing support is more than paperwork and applications—it's about connection, belonging, and care. That's why we showed up across the community this year: attending wellness days, supporting cultural workshops, and hosting events that create space for healing.

Some highlights include:

- Supporting ribbon skirt and vest making workshops
- Presenting at the Elders Gathering and Trinity United Ladies' Group
- Taking part in International Women's Day
- Participating in the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness conference in Ottawa
- Welcoming Minister Bernadette Smith for a visit during our AGM
- Hosting Grade 9 students for Take Your Kid to Work Day



We also started community patrols, offering direct support and checking in with folks across Portage la Prairie.

Fundraising & Community Support

Our third annual Flocking Flamingo Fundraiser brought color and visibility to the issue of homelessness, and our community raffle saw overwhelming generosity from local businesses and residents. Donations of hygiene items, socks, and warm winter gear poured in from:

REACHING HOME

- Trinity United Church
- Canad Inns
- Bear Clan
- Sobey's
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- Keya Bedding
- Rona
- Kal Tire
- The Studio on Sask
- Styled with Meraki
- Zoe's Carpentry
- Tornado's
- Arrowhead Development Corporation
- Portage Terriers
- Dream Team Baking
- Portage La Prairie School Division
- Badlands Promotions
- PRRA
- Taste of Spice
- Christianson TDS

These contributions helped us respond quickly to immediate needs, and are only to name a few of the donors.

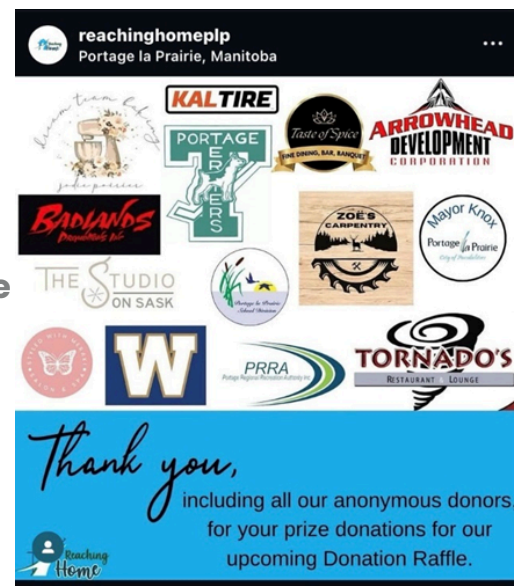
Grants That Made a Difference

Thanks to the generosity of local and national funders, we were able to expand our food security efforts and supports:

- \$5,000 from TC Energy (Build Strong grant)
- \$5,000 food security grant in the fall
- \$14,500 from the Community Foundation of Portage & District

These grants helped us fill fridges, cupboards, and bellies—and for many folks, that was the first step toward something more stable.

As we look ahead, we're encouraged by the progress we've made and the strength of the community around us. With a full team in place and continued support from funders and partners, we're ready to keep moving forward—one person, one home, one connection at a time.



HOUSING INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT

This past year, the Housing Intensive Case Management team has continued to play a vital role in supporting individuals and families experiencing homelessness or housing instability in our community. Through a client-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive approach, the team has helped to address complex barriers and supported sustainable pathways toward stable housing.

At the core of our work is a commitment to personalized care. Each client receives a thorough, in-depth assessment to identify the unique barriers preventing them from obtaining or maintaining safe, stable housing. Based on these assessments, Housing Intensive Case Managers co-develop individualized Housing Stability Plans tailored to each client's goals, challenges, and support needs. Ongoing support is provided through regular check-ins, home visits, phone consultations, and coordinated resource navigation. Service navigation includes support through Rental and utility assistance; Food bank registration and food security supports; Employment and training programs; Mental health and addictions resources; Assistance with obtaining personal identification and accessing benefits; Advocacy within legal, healthcare, and social service systems. These efforts are designed to secure housing as well as to sustain it. This ensures clients receive continuous and evolving support throughout their housing journey.

In October 2024, members of our team attended the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) conference in Ottawa. This national event provided valuable learning opportunities and exposure to the latest best practices in housing stability, harm reduction, and homelessness prevention. Insights gained from the conference have directly informed and enhanced our case management practices and strengthened collaboration with community partners.

HOUSING INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT

Professional development remained a priority throughout the year. In February, team members participated in the Giwiidosendamin – Responding to Addictions and Suicide certificate program, a five-day intensive training aimed at improving frontline support for individuals struggling with addiction and suicidal ideation. In addition, staff completed training with the Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute (CTRI), covering topics such as: Trauma-informed Care; De-Escalation Techniques; Strength-Based Housing Support Strategies.

This ongoing training ensures that our team remains well-equipped to support clients experiencing a wide range of intersecting challenges, including mental health concerns, trauma, addiction, and systemic barriers to housing.

Beyond case management, the HICM team remains actively engaged in broader community efforts. This past year, team members showed their support at several significant community events, including the MMIWG (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls) March, PRIDE celebrations, and the Elder's Dinner hosted by the Portage Friendship Centre during the holiday season.

The team also participated in culturally rooted healing and connection activities alongside clients, including workshops on making ribbon skirts, ribbon vests, and drums. These activities not only help foster trust and connection between staff and clients but also strengthen cultural identity and resilience.

A key component of our success is the strong relationships we have built and maintained with landlords, property managers, housing agencies, and local organizations. Our team works closely with housing providers to advocate for clients during the housing application process, lease negotiations, and conflict resolution.

HOUSING INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT

Through consistent and reliable communication with housing providers, we have fostered a sense of mutual trust and accountability, reinforcing our role as a reliable partner in the housing sector.

We also work diligently to help clients overcome barriers such as poor rental history, credit issues, and lack of income stability. By leveraging partnerships and available financial supports, we help set the foundation for long-term success.

Conservatively 40 households were successfully housed and stabilized through ongoing intensive case management. An additional 20+ clients were rapidly rehoused following emergency displacement or eviction risk.



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

Hands-on engagement continued into June, with clean-up efforts at the Indigenous Interpretive Site and participation in National Indigenous Peoples Day, where we hosted activity tables for the children. Ajiimadoo Aki made an appearance, handed out over 150 frisbees to the children, and took part in a photoshoot with the attendees. July focused on coalition networking and reporting, including the successful submission of a grant application and the start of community event planning. A traditional medicine-picking activity was held with the local women's group and Portage Friendship Centre.

August centered on planning for a permanent Indigenous Interpretive Site and fall programming. These efforts carried into September, which featured two major public engagement initiatives: the Community Round Dance, which welcomed nearly 100 participants, and the 'Paint the Town Orange' initiative. This initiative saw nearly 20 local businesses feature art by a local Indigenous artist that was well received by other businesses and community members. Additional outreach included radio segments that shared Indigenous history with the broader community, further supporting Truth and Reconciliation education and visibility.



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR



In October, an Indigenous art unveiling took place, with members from the Public Arts Committee and City Council in attendance. In November, planning advanced further with discussions on educational signage in partnership with Fort la Reine Museum, and nominations for the Urban Indigenous Business Award as part of the best business of the year awards ceremony hosted by Portage la Prairie & the Chamber of Commerce

In December, Suta Kachicha participated in the Elders Christmas Dinner and gathered feedback on the interpretive site preliminary designs at the Indigenous Seniors Gathering.

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

January saw the successful installation of the Youth Hub Mural and the submission of a Heritage Canada TRC Grant application to support the 2025 Round Dance and Paint the Town Orange events.

Throughout February and March, coalition efforts expanded through collaboration with the National Indigenous Residential School Museum, and Dakota Waconzi Tipi (DWT), planning for spring events, and partnership discussions with Fort la Reine Museum. The year closed with the Spring Equinox celebration and representation at the DWT Health Fair, where we engaged with over 50 attendees, and answered questions they had about Suta Kachicha, PCRC and its various programs.

Suta Kachicha continues to commit to Indigenous cultural revitalization, and collaborative community development.



LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

Portage Local Immigration Partnership (PLIP)

This past year has been one of growth, resilience, and connection. As Portage la Prairie continues to welcome new residents from around the world, PLIP has remained committed to fostering an inclusive community where everyone can thrive. From vibrant cultural events to policy discussions in classrooms, the Local Immigration Partnership has been at the heart of many meaningful conversations and celebrations.

We're proud of the partnerships, the momentum, and the shared vision of a community that sees diversity as strength. As we reflect on the last twelve months, we're also looking ahead, with renewed energy and deep gratitude for all those who have walked alongside us on this journey.

Highlights of the Year

Cultural Celebrations

From Nigerian Delicacy Day to Diwali, karaoke nights to Filipino Heritage Day, this year's events brought hundreds of community members together. They were joyful, colourful, and deeply moving moments of cultural pride and shared joy.

- Nigerian Delicacy Day drew over 120 guests to sample traditional food and connect with their neighbours.
- Filipino Heritage Day welcomed 250 attendees for food, music, and cultural performances.
- Diwali lit up the city with fireworks and dancing, attracting over 300 attendees.
- New Year celebrations hosted by the Nigerian and Filipino associations capped the year with unity and warmth.

LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

Community Dialogues & Events

- The “Envisioning the Future of Ethnocultural Communities” event allowed newcomers to share aspirations and co-create visions for a more inclusive Portage.
- Welcome Dinners with the Portage Friendship Centre created space for newcomers and Indigenous leaders to connect and share cultural knowledge.
- Anti-Racism Week featured a flag-raising at PCI, a free community movie, and a Discover Pickleball event to encourage newcomer participation in local recreation.

Education & Youth Engagement

- PLIP and PLLC spoke with Grade 12 students in MacGregor about immigration and belonging.
- In partnership with MANSO, we co-led a session with university students on immigration and reconciliation.



- We supported youth mental health awareness by co-hosting a screening of Connecting the Dots in partnership with United Way.

LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

Newcomer Support & Policy Engagement

- Our team met with local officials to advocate for better protections for Temporary Foreign Workers and participated in sector-wide webinars on racism in settlement.
- We presented idealized designs for childcare to our MLA, envisioning a better system for newcomer families.
- We refined our referral systems to improve access to services



What We Heard & Learned

Throughout the year, conversations at events, dinners, and workshops revealed a shared desire among newcomers for safe spaces, access to culturally appropriate services, and opportunities to connect across communities. We also heard a strong call for reconciliation and mutual understanding between newcomers and Indigenous Peoples.

Impact & Outcomes

- Hundreds of attendees participated in PLIP-supported cultural events.
- Two new ethnocultural associations formed (Filipino and Nigerian), now hosting independent events.
- Three major regional partnerships launched to explore housing, childcare, and transit access for newcomers.

LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

- Renewed funding from IRCC secured for 3 more years, ensuring continuity of services despite national cutbacks.
- PLIP's voice was elevated at local and national levels, including CCEDNet's Gathering and a national immigration conference in Vancouver.

Looking Ahead

We're entering the next phase of work with ambition and care. Plans include:

- Securing funding and finalizing plans for a multicultural hub in Portage.
- Continuing labour market readiness research with PRED and municipal partners.
- Hosting new dialogues between newcomers and Indigenous Peoples.
- Supporting further development of ethnocultural leadership and youth engagement.



LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

Thank You

This work wouldn't be possible without the generosity and vision of our partners. Thank you to:

- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)
- City of Portage la Prairie
- Portage Learning and Literacy Centre
- Portage Friendship Centre
- United Way Central Plains
- Portage la Prairie School Division
- Naomi House
- Association of Nigerians in Portage la Prairie
- Association of Filipinos in Portage la Prairie
- Islamic Association of Portage la Prairie
- PRED, MANSO, CCEDNet, all of our community volunteers, and all the members of the Partnership



INDIGENOUS SENIORS RESOURCE COORDINATOR

The Indigenous Seniors Resource program is committed to helping seniors live independently longer. Throughout this year, we've held monthly gatherings at the Portage la Prairie Regional Library where we invite local Indigenous seniors to get together and socialize. We have also provided services such as yard care, transportation, assistance completing forms, daily activities, and organizing appointments or services. As the Indigenous Resource Coordinator, I strive to make the daily tasks of our senior clients as easy and as comfortable as possible.

GATHERINGS:

This year we held Indigenous Seniors gatherings every month at the Portage la Prairie Regional Library. We also newly introduced "mini gatherings" to our weekly schedule being held at the Odd Fellows Band Stand at Island Park.

Our monthly Indigenous Seniors gathering held at the library typically has 8-20 attendees. During our gatherings we interact with each other discussing daily news topics, healthy living, life enhancing needs for seniors, and we enjoy snacks, sandwiches and coffee.

The mini gathering idea was introduced at one of our seniors gathering in response to our group wanting to come together more than just once a month. We proposed the idea of the mini gatherings being held outdoors, weekly, to enhance a more laid back, unstructured setting, while still supporting the mental health benefits of exercise, fresh air and personable interaction.



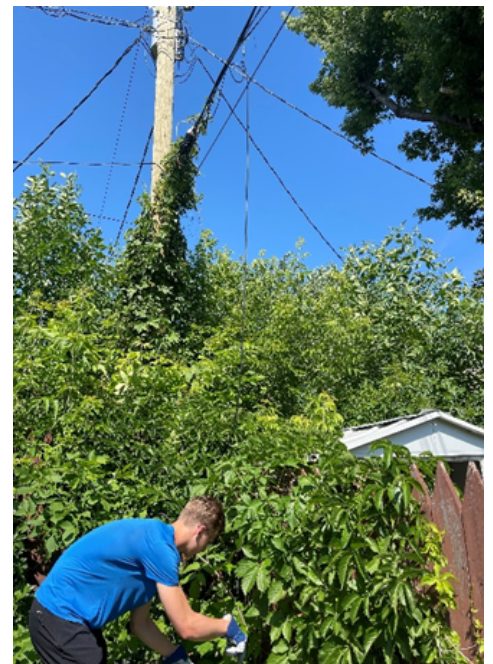
INDIGENOUS SENIORS RESOURCE COORDINATOR

TRANSPORTATION:

The Indigenous Seniors Resource Coordinator program was able to provide 146 individual rides this year. We have provided transportation for grocery trips, appointments, wellness appointments, daily walks, and one on one visits, resulting in an astounding total of 1267 kilometers of transportation accessed by seniors across Portage la Prairie.

YARD CARE:

This year has been extremely busy for both snow removal and grass cutting. This winter we provided service to 40 yards owned by seniors requiring snow removal and adding salt to sidewalks and driveways to ensure they were able to access there properties safely. From May until October, we assisted in caring for 28 yards; this included grass cutting, weed pulling, and cleaning up garbage.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Portage Community Revitalization Corporation would like to thank the following funders for their continued support, guidance, and cooperation. Our work would not be possible without you. Thank you.

- **City of Portage la Prairie**
- **Government of Manitoba**
 - **Manitoba Justice**
 - **Housing, Addictions and Homelessness Department**
 - **Department of Families**
 - **Municipal Relations**
- **Government of Canada**
 - **Indigenous Services Canada**
 - **Immigration, Refugee, Citizenship Canada**
- **Public Safety Canada**
- **Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation**
- **Southern Health/Sante Sud**

We are grateful for the ongoing support of our numerous community partners. Due to the extensive list of invaluable collaborators we're fortunate to work with, we're unable to include every name in this AGM report. While we would like to individually acknowledge all contributions, the constraints of this report mean we can't include everyone. However, please know that your efforts and partnership are deeply appreciated.

