

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



Portage la Prairie  
Community  
Revitalization  
Corporation

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

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# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021**

James Kostuchuk, Chair

Don Smoke, Vice Chair

Matthew Boschman, Treasurer

Cassandra Pehura, Secretary

Scott Lawrence

Matt Harkness

Brandwyn Kinnear

## **STAFF**

Victoria Espey, Executive Director

Sherri Walker, Office Manager

Rachel Templeton, Community Facilitator

Cornell Pashe, Indigenous Community Coordinator

Jacinda Houle, PUIPC Assistant/CBYF Youth Intern

Caileigh Morrison, Community Shelter Coordinator

Sonali Kapoor, Community Engagement Coordinator

Mari Lawrence, Wawokiya Coordinator

Alescha Anderson, Reaching Home Coordinator

Mitch Tilk, Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator

Megan Romphf, Cultural Connector

Morag Morison, Communities Building Youth Futures Lead Coordinator

Ashley Anderson, Communities Building Youth Futures Community Connector

Anthony Woods, Youth Intern

Ryan Lucko, Office Assistant/Youth Intern

Tawnee Kowerchuk, Shelter Support Staff/Reaching Home Coordinator

Luke Towle, Shelter Support Staff

Tara Brugger, Community Engagement Coordinator

# STAFF

Emily Toews, Shelter Support Staff

Alexa Kowerchuk, Shelter Support Staff/Reaching Home Case Manager

Ben Warthe, Shelter Support Staff

Craig Smart, Shelter Support Staff

Teena Thomas, Shelter Support Staff

Jessica Pacey, Shelter Support Staff

Tom James, Shelter Support Staff

Mitch Moar, Shelter Support Staff/Indigenous Seniors Resource Coordinator

Mithun Mathew, Shelter Support Staff

Matthew James, Shelter Support Staff

Pauline Johnston, Urban Indigenous Vaccine Clinic Coordinator/Ask Auntie Coordinator

Robbie Longclaws, Ask Auntie Coordinator/Urban Indigenous Vaccine Clinic Elder

Kim Fehr, Office Assistant/Urban Indigenous Vaccine Clinic Outreach Worker

Kimberley Sharp, Reaching Home Case Manager

Lori Myran, Urban Indigenous Vaccine Clinic Outreach Worker

Savannah Roulette, Urban Indigenous Vaccine Clinic Outreach Worker

Alex Lassell, Youth Intern

Tyne Carmichael, Urban Indigenous Vaccine Clinic Coordinator

Brendan Schaan, Wawokiya Program Coordinator

Marlin Francis, Urban Indigenous Vaccine Clinic Assistant

Logan Alexander, Office Assistant

Wes Hunter, Urban Indigenous Vaccine Clinic Outreach Worker

Adam Tompkins, Green Team

Jessica Ramachandran, Summer Student

# STAFF

Kathy Regular, Point-in-Time Count Coordinator

Selçuk Koran, Communities Building Youth Futures Lead Coordinator

Gareth Rice, Summer Student

Connor Maryniuk, Summer Student

Renata Beaulieu, Urban Indigenous Vaccine Clinic Elder

Marissa Goodberry-Spence, Summer Student/Office Assistant

Taylor Bazin-Acoby

Quentin Wilson, Green Team

Koket Tadesse, Intern

# STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings readers, this one is for my team. Another year has come and gone and this time I am writing my address to you all from a different perspective. Usually, I talk about how much we've grown and how I am filled with excitement about the year to come and while all that is true, this coming year will be a time of change without me at the helm of this incredible ship.

I am an advocate of change, an advocate of challenging yourself and trying new things, an advocate of pushing the boundaries for the betterment of people and this community. So, when an opportunity presented itself to me I had to really ponder my next move. I will say with absolute truth that this decision was one of the toughest of my life. I thought about what the change would mean for PCRC.

I went to work for a few days and really watched my team. While I've always said they strive to make their community a better place to live, I really watched. I watched them be presented with clients who were impoverished, had no resources, and within hours have a plan in place and sometimes housing within hours. I watched them pivot, I watched them brainstorm, I watched them think outside the box and colour outside the lines to truly help. I watched them plan meaningful events bringing attention to inequality and racism. I watched new team members join and the existing team members welcome them with open arms. Alas, they will be okay without me.



# STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To my team, thank you, and keep doing what you're doing, because you're doing great. I will miss each and every one of you.

A truly amazing team is hard to find, difficult to part with, and impossible to forget.

Signing off,  
Victoria Espey

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

As we move out of pandemic lockdowns, there is a sense of optimism and concern. It has been a long haul, and we want to get back to "normal," but we also understand that a lot has changed. Uncertainty has fostered political, economic, and social consequences that no one could have foreseen a few years ago.

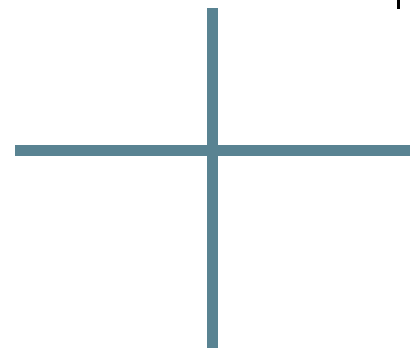


The team at PCRC has had to pivot and adapt to meet the needs of our community, sometimes in a matter of hours. I am immensely proud of our PCRC family. As board chair, I often receive feedback on our work. It is uniformly positive. Our friends and neighbors understand the necessity of building a community to support our community.

I arrived in Portage la Prairie over 30 years ago. Our community has its fair share of struggles, but I feel comfortable here. This feeling of ease is encouraged by my board work at PCRC, where we are less concerned with words and more concerned with deeds. Our vaccine clinic was a model for other communities. We are also trying to be leaders in reconciliation instead of followers. We connect with all community members, from those who have brushes with the law to those who make our laws. It isn't a perfect model yet. But we are damn well trying to make it perfect.



# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



I am excited to welcome Mari Lawrence as our new executive director. She has been an exceptional leader of the Wawokiya table, and I have every confidence in her abilities as a manager of our organization. She has a thorough knowledge of Portage la Prairie's strengths and challenges.

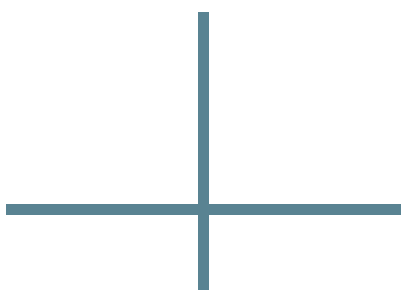
In closing, I want to say farewell to our long-serving executive director, Victoria Espey. Due to her professionalism and strength of character, our organization has grown exponentially over the past five years. At the time of writing, we have 27 employees and a budget of over 2 million dollars. This is no small accomplishment. Our business is a community, but at the end of the day, it is a business. I believe that we are making a difference by providing essential services in a way that is responsible to our funders.

Therefore, governments and organizations are looking to us to help move the needle forward wherever a need arises. As our director, Victoria has faced many serious challenges but has never lost her sense of calm or her sense of humor. For that, we are very grateful. We are going to miss you.

All the best,  
James Kostuchuk, Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR  
CONT.

PAGE 8





# **Annual General Meeting**

## **6pm - Tuesday, November 15, 2022**

Welcome, Everyone!

Greetings from the Executive Director

James Kostuchuk, PCRC Board Chair

Mayor Sharilyn Knox, City of Portage la Prairie

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of Minutes from the 2021 Annual General Meeting

Presentation - Tawnee Kowerchuk, Reaching Home Coordinator

Presentation - Urban Indigenous Vaccine Clinic, Cornell Pashe  
and Jacinda Houle

Financial Report

Elections to the Board

Closing Remarks

# Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation

Annual General Meeting – November 16, 2021

**In attendance:** Matt Boshman, James Kostuchuk, Don Smoke, Cassandra Pehura, Shawn Roulette, Brandwyn Kinnear, Scott Lawrence, Matt Harkness, Sherri Walker, Adele McMurray

**Regrets:** Victoria Espey

## **1. Greetings & Adoption of Agenda**

Sophia Smoke will open the evening with an opening prayer.

Victoria (JAMES) will welcome guests and thank community partners.

James called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and gave the address from the Chair.

Mayor Irvine Ferris will bring greetings on behalf of the City of Portage la Prairie.

Ian Wishart MLA will bring greetings on behalf of the Province of MB.

Presentations: (read by James)

### 1. Mole Guacamole

Roberto and Maria-Alicia Hernandez moved to Canada in 2008. They opened the Mole Guacamole Restaurant in July 2019.

Roberto and Maria-Alicia are originally from Mexico City, Mexico. Maria-Alicia is from a small town outside of Mexico City.

Roberto and Maria-Alicia have four children and 17 grandchildren, who all live in Canada! Their children followed in their footsteps, as their daughter owns a restaurant in Morden and their other daughter owns a restaurant in Windemere, BC.

When asked about what they love about Portage la Prairie, Roberto and Maria-Alicia both agree their favorite thing about Portage is "how very welcoming the people are in Portage".

Mole Guacamole were virtual hosts two times in the Dining in with the Chef Program (funded by the Safe at Home Manitoba Grant) . Their guests thoroughly enjoyed their lovely dancing, singing and of course some cooking lessons of a delicious traditional meal

Mole Guacamole may not boast about themselves, but the community will! Mole Guacamole is the proud winner of the Portage la Prairie's Best Poutine and the Portage la Prairie's Best Hamburger 2021. Mole Guacamole has also been nominated for the Portage la Prairie's Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding New Entrepreneur of the Year.

### 2. Emergency Soup Kitchen (prerecorded video)

The Emergency Soup Kitchen Video created by Emily Toews – during Covid, the regular soup kitchen at the First Presbyterian was not able to remain open because of Covid restrictions. PCRC assisted Family Resource Centre to operate an Emergency Soup kitchen. Some gracious folks from the Portage Evangelical Church were able to take over the Soup Kitchen during the peak of the

Covid restrictions. The PCRC was able to assist with the application for a Grant from the United Way to keep the emergency Soup Kitchen in operation. PCRC also assisted the Emergency Soup Kitchen on how to facilitate a new organization.

Sherilyn Thiessen and Emily Toews helped with the initial startup of the Emergency Soup Kitchen. The other coordinators are Ashley Morrison (volunteer coordinating) and Cole Provo (donations coordinating). Al O'Neil, Eve Waldner, Barb Beaulieu, Joy Walker and Regina Laprette all helped regularly in the kitchen.

Disclaimer for video- this video was not prepared by PCRC, and PCRC may not necessarily express the views that are presented in this video

## **2. Adoption of Agenda**

**James:** 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: Donny Smoke**

**Seconded: Matt Harkness**

## **3. Adoption of Minutes**

**James:** 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 September 15, 2020.**

**Moved: Cassandra Pehura**

**Seconded: Matt Boschman**

## **4. PCRC Presenters:**

Morag Morison – Communities Building Youth Futures

Rachel Templeton – Community Facilitator

**James:** We would now like to welcome Morag Morison. Morag is our Communities Building Youth Futures Coordinator for PCRC. Morag began in her position as the Community Connector and assumed the Coordinator role earlier this year. Communities Building Youth Futures has found its stride and we are pleased to provide the community with an overview and update of this project. Welcome Morag..

**James:** We would now like to welcome Rachel Templeton. Rachel is the Community Facilitator for PCRC. Rachel started at the PCRC mid October 2020, she replaced the previous Community Facilitator Vienna Meuse who moved on as Executive Director at ROK.

**James:** Thank you for sharing with our community two new initiatives that we are quite certain will have a tremendous impact on Portage's most vulnerable population. Already to-date we are seeing positive outcomes and strong returns on the investments in to these two programs. We would like to sincerely thank all of our community partners who are a part of these programs and contribute time, dollars, and enthusiasm. I would now like to call upon Matt Boschman to present the financial

reports.

## **5. Financial Report**

**Matt Boschman:** A copy of the Board Approved audited financial statements for 2020-21 has been included with the Annual Report.

Revenue for this year was \$1,590,388. Expenses were \$1,510,572.00, leaving us with an excess of revenue over expenses of \$79,816.00.

Does anyone have any questions or comments on the financial statements?

**I would like to call for a motion: To accept the Audited Financial Report 2020-21 as presented.**

**Moved: Matt Harkness**

**Seconded: Cassandra Pehura**

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

**I would like to call for a motion: To appoint BDO as the auditor for the 2020-21 fiscal year.**

**Moved: Cassandra Pehura**

**Seconded: Brandwyn Kinnear**

## **6. By- Law Changes**

**James:** There are no By-Law changes to report for the 2020-2021 fiscal year

## **7. Elections to the Board**

I would like to call for a motion: that James Kostuchuk remain as the Chair of the PCRC Board of Directors

Moved: Adele McMurray

Seconded: Brandwyn Kinnear

I would like to call for a motion: that Don Smoke remain as the Vice Chair of the PCRC Board of Directors.

Moved: Brandwyn Kinnear

Seconded: Cassandra Pehura

I would like to call for a motion: that Matt Boschman remain as the Treasurer of the PCRC Board of Directors.

Moved: Don Smoke

Seconded: Brandwyn Kinnear

I would like to call for a motion: that Cassandra Pehura remain as Secretary for the PCRC Board of Directors.

Moved: Scott Lawrence

Seconded: Adele McMurray

I would like to call for a motion: that Brandwyn Kinnear be appointed to the PCRC Board of Directors for a two-year term.

Moved: Don Smoke

Seconded: Scott Lawrence

I would like to call for a motion: that Adele McMurray be appointed to the PCRC Board of Directors for a two-year term.

Moved: Don Smoke

Seconded: Matt Boschman

#### 8. Closing Remarks

I would like to call for a motion: To adjourn the Annual General Meeting of the PCRC at 7:56 pm.

Moved: Matt Boschman

Seconded: Matt Harkness



Signed & Date (Board Chair)

16/11/2021



Signed & Date (Vice Chair)

16/11/2021

## Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31	2022	2021
<b>Revenue</b>		
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	\$ 2,924	\$ 2,924
Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation grant	276,839	292,771
Donations and events	14,638	26,860
Government programs (Note 11)	-	35,000
Grant revenue (Schedule)	1,365,208	1,140,840
Insurance proceeds	-	20,534
Interest income	2,578	3,574
Miscellaneous	538	-
Rental income	25,721	26,348
Small grants (Note 12)	37,500	37,500
Work experience	6,971	4,037
	<u>1,732,917</u>	<u>1,590,388</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Advertising and donations	50,431	20,169
Amortization	38,498	21,914
Conferences	8,257	1,746
Contracted services	32,965	89,936
Events	187,957	66,675
Fees, dues and registrations	17,527	4,499
Grants	112,630	241,670
Insurance	16,378	12,210
Interest on long-term debt	14,406	11,922
Office and miscellaneous	24,342	13,670
Participant costs	57,125	24,308
Professional fees	15,771	13,561
Program related training	6,286	55,967
Rent - land and buildings	31,775	34,257
Repairs and maintenance	17,082	19,003
Salaries and wages	963,525	643,319
Small grants (Note 12)	37,500	37,500
Supplies	12,593	153,838
Travel expenses	24,419	15,498
Utilities	34,269	28,910
	<u>1,703,736</u>	<u>1,510,572</u>
<b>Excess of revenues over expenses</b>	<b>\$ 29,181</b>	<b>\$ 79,816</b>

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**PAGE 14**

# WAWOKIYA PROJECT

The Wawokiya program saw continued success through 2021 – 2022. The number of program referrals doubled over the past year between clients needing long-term follow-up and those needing brief interventions. These brief interventions mostly took place with walk-in clients at PCRC or by referral through emergency services. Some of these clients needed immediate assistance to leave the community or to be connected to services outside of Portage la Prairie which successfully took place.

The Wawokiya advisory table continues to be a strong network of service providers in Portage la Prairie. This group has seen very little turnover in the group since the inception of community mobilization in Portage la Prairie. We have seen an increase in engagement with agencies from outside of this network of service providers over the past year.

Portage RCMP applied on behalf of the Wawokiya program and successfully received a program van through the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund. This has allowed for increased service provision as Wawokiya can help clients access services outside of Portage la Prairie. Some of these services have included Manitoba Legal Aid, Main Street Project Detox, Samaritan House Ministries in Brandon, and health services in Winnipeg and Brandon.





# WAWOKIYA PROJECT

November 15th, 2021 marked the 2nd anniversary of the program's naming ceremony where Darryl Taylor presented the name Wawokiya on behalf of his late father, Happy Eagle John Taylor. The Wawokiya Advisory Table comprised of front-line staff feasted to the name and engaged in a team-building exercise. From April 2021 to March 2022, Wawokiya has had 47 referrals, bringing the total number of program referrals to 94. Of these 47 referrals, 42 were accepted with 16 being provided brief intervention services and 25 offered up to a year of support. Wawokiya began tracking brief interventions in the fall of 2021 as direct requests for help from community members have increased at PCRC. The top risk factors of people being assisted through the program continue to be mental health, basic needs, and addictions.

In partnership with the RCMP, Wawokiya has begun engaging with a targeted engagement strategy approach to offer support to people in the community who have a high call volume that is not criminal in nature and could use more appropriate support. An additional \$20,000 grant was attained through the Department of Justice to support this work. The funding allows Wawokiya to offer immediate support to bridge gaps in services to support clients to stabilize in shorter periods of time.

There have been many success stories and positive outcomes for clients over the past year. Wawokiya has helped several clients connect to appropriate services within the community and those that are not offered locally. A client had pushed legal aid appointments to assume guardianship of their grandchildren because of a lack of transportation to the office in Winnipeg. Wawokiya was able to bridge that gap for the client and they completed the guardianship process.

# WAWOKIYA PROJECT



One client was referred by RCMP for services due to a relationship breakdown with a family member. He was able to be housed the same day in emergency housing and later transitioned to permanent housing. The individual was connected to additional resources like Reaching Home to ensure that housing could be maintained.

One person who was provided services through a brief intervention was continuously using emergency services including both RCMP and the hospital emergency department. They had some supports in place in the community but need additional support that isn't available within Portage la Prairie. The individual was supported to relocate to a larger center so they could access more appropriate services.

A family was referred after the primary parent overdosed and was on life support and not expected to recover. A grandparent was able to take in the family including the parent and their children. The parent overcome the odds of recovery and relearned to walk and enrolled in school again. Manitoba Housing was able to connect them to adequate housing since they were living in a unit that was too small. The kids have been supported in school and recreation programming and have been thriving.

A client who was pregnant required specialized prenatal care that was not fully offered within the community and Wawokiya was able to connect the client with transportation to a necessary appointment in Winnipeg. This helped ensure her delivery team had the required information for the birth.



# **WAWOKIYA PROJECT**

There was a total of 7 Wawokiya clients with improved living situations over the past year. There was a 63% improvement/reduction in involvement with Child and Family Services with clients who had files. There was one family who had their Child and Family Services file closed and one that moved to family enhancement from a protection file. There was 1 client who successfully completed their probation order and moved on to engage in an employment program. There were a total of 5 children attached to Wawokiya families who saw an increase in school attendance and 10 children with increased academics/school situations.

In the 2021-2022 year, 83% of participants saw a reduction in risk factors, 80% were connected to new services and 75% of participants were kept safe through a plan created with their support team. Over the next year, more agency presentation and engagement is planned as more in-person meetings can occur.

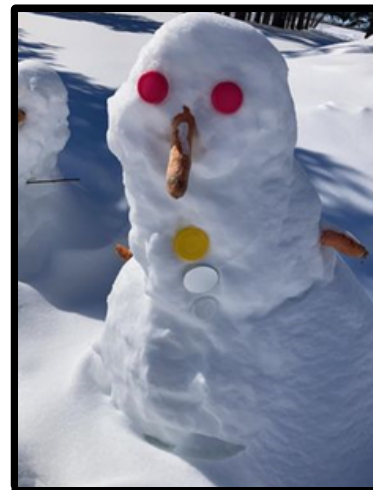
## **AFFORDABLE RECREATION & IMPROVED FACILITIES**

To foster a welcoming community for all, with residents of all ages, cultures, income levels and backgrounds engaged and taking ownership of their neighborhoods.

# 2021 - 2022 COMMUNITY EVENTS

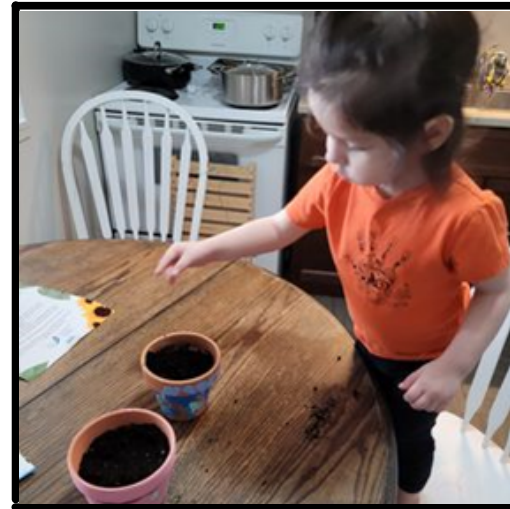
From April 2021 to March 2022, PCRC hosted and partnered on 12 events and neighborhood initiatives in Portage la Prairie. Out of these 12 events, 5 were in person and 7 were virtual due to Covid-19 restrictions. The events engaged Community members all across the city.

- Virtual Seed Starting Workshop
- Spring Beautification Days
- Communities in Bloom
- Shoreline Clean-Up
- Fall Beautification Days
- Trick or Treat
- Winter Creativity Kits
- Holiday Cookie Decorating Workshop
- We Can't Mingle, so let's JINGLE
- Virtual Yoga
- Quarantine Kits
- Winterfest
- Grow Together



# COMMUNITY PRIDE AND IMAGE

To build citizen responsibility for beautification by engaging citizens, businesses and organizations in beautifying properties, green space and streets.



## VIRTUAL SEED STARTING WORKSHOP

PCRC partnered with Fort la Reine Museum to offer a virtual seed starting workshop. A total of 44 community members took part. Each participant was provided with a starter kit so they could start their wildflowers at home.

## BEAUTIFICATION DAYS & SHORELINE CLEAN-UP

Beautification days were held in spring and fall as well as a Crescent Lake shoreline clean-up. As a city-wide event, this year we were able to reach a total of 600 people. We had several schools participate in a clean-up of their grounds and surrounding areas, a few businesses took the initiative by planting flowers and tidying their properties.



**COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM**

Portage la Prairie participated for the fifth year in the provincial Communities in Bloom competition. Due to COVID-19, Communities in Bloom was a bit different this year. We submitted an essay and photos to enter. This summer we revitalized the Cenotaph site and planted the Manitoba 150 flower bed over at the island.



**GRAFFITI REMOVAL**

The Graffiti Removal team returned for eight weeks in the summer of 2021. The team cleaned 27 tags around Portage la Prairie and cleaned up litter in different areas. The Green Team also produced videos addressing a variety of topics related to our community.



## TRICK OR TREAT EVENT

IPCRC partnered with the Portage Library, Family Resource Centre, and Prairie City Cinema to host a Trick or Treat event inside the Library and in the Prairie City Cinema and Family Resource Centre parking lot. We had 6 other organizations take part in the event, decorating a table and handing out candy. The event was very well attended with 719 people attending (430 children, 289 adults).



## KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

PCRC teamed up with Recreation Opportunities for Kids, Family Resource Centre, and Military Family Services Centre, and 250 creativity kits were distributed to children in our community. These kits were full of a variety of activities to complete over the winter break to help beat the winter and covid blues.



## HOLIDAY COOKIE DECORATING WORKSHOP

PCRC teamed up with Recreation Opportunities for Kids, Family Resource Centre, and Military Family Services Centre, and 250 creativity kits were distributed to children in our community. These kits were full of a variety of activities to complete over the winter break to help beat the winter and covid blues.



## **WE CAN'T MINGLE, SO LET'S JINGLE**

PCRC in partnership with Meseyton Construction came up with a fun, creative, and safe way to spread holiday cheer through our community. Organizations were challenged by other organizations to create a jingle to post on social media. All participants were entered into a draw where the winner would get to choose a charity of their choice for a donation to be made. We had 16 organizations take part in creating a jingle. Fort la Reine Museum was the winner of our draw and chose the donation to be made to Central Plains Cancer Care.



## **VIRTUAL YOGA**

In partnership with a local yoga teacher, Lynne Bereza of Breeze Yoga, PCRC offered free virtual classes to the community. These sessions were a way to help the community members connect during COVID-19 restrictions while starting healthy habits and taking care of their mental health at the same time. No special equipment was required and it could be done from the comfort of their homes. Classes were hugely popular as a total of 218 people benefited from them.





## QUARANTINE KITS

As COVID-19 numbers increased, PCRC offered free quarantine kits to children completing a 10-day quarantine due to having covid. These kits contained 10 activities (plus a couple extra), allowing them to have one activity to complete every day of their quarantine. We offered contactless delivery and delivered a total of 67 kits within our community.



## WINTERFEST

Winterfest looked a little different this year due to COVID-19, but in partnership with Recreation Opportunities for Kids, PCRC was excited to offer a virtual Winterfest. Registered participants received an activity package listing 15 different winter-related activities. Every time they completed one of the activities, they would post it on social media and tag PCRC and ROK so they could be entered into a draw to win 1 of 5 prize packs full of gift cards and items from a variety of local businesses. We had 72 households (261 people) take part in our virtual Winterfest.



# COMMUNITIES BUILDING YOUTH FUTURES (CBYF)

If 20-21 was a year of growing roots for the Communities Building Youth Futures program, 21-22 was the year of growing foliage and flowers for the community to enjoy. Our project aims to improve the lives of youth aged 15-30 in Portage and the surrounding area. In 21-22, our backbone team grew from three to five people. Also, in addition to our regular program funding, we secured multiple grants for a total value of \$315,000, our leadership table expanded, we formed four action groups, launched a youth council, and engaged over 700 youth in the community.

As a collective impact initiative, we know that this work cannot be done alone so we approached every project with a partner in the community and centered on sustainability and learning every time.

One of our projects, the Roving Campus, possible through a partnership with the Portage la Prairie School Division (PLPSD), is an experimental classroom designed to reduce barriers for students who struggle in traditional classroom settings. Originally the classroom was supported through the Community Innovation Fund in 20-21 offered by Tamarack. This year we got to watch the first year of students graduate from the program. The results of this project were incredible – the classroom recruited 22 students who should have been entering grade 12 but were not on track to graduate due to low attendance rates. By the end of the school year: 100% of students who finished the year graduated, 80% of students had secured summer employment and there was an overall attendance improvement of 36.5%. Building on this success, we were able to secure a multi-year grant from the Rideau Hall Foundation for \$250,000. This funding will allow us to hire a full-time Youth Support Navigator to work with current and graduated students, and cover classroom costs until December 2023.



**COMMUNITIES  
BUILDING  
YOUTH FUTURES**



# COMMUNITIES BUILDING YOUTH FUTURES CONT.

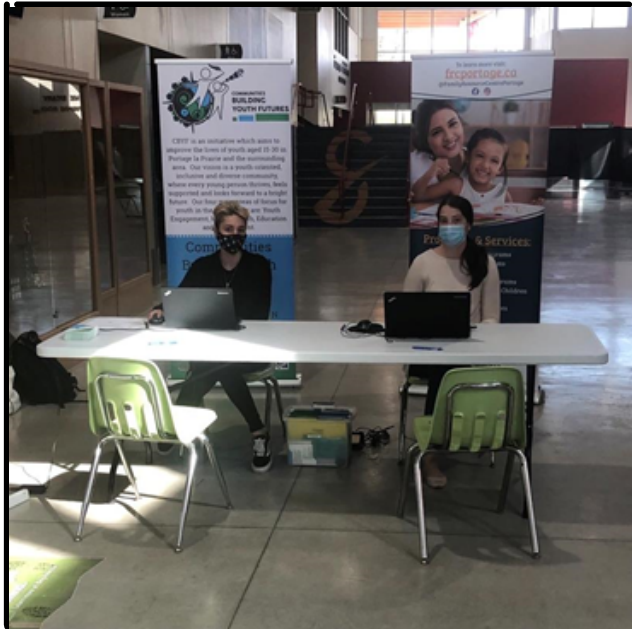
We also got to engage youth in the community through many other pilot projects and events. During times of stricter health restrictions, we hosted virtual photography and art contests through social media to encourage youth to share their art from home. At times when restrictions allowed us to be out in the community, we got to engage youth through projects such as an ID service navigation program that offered pop-ups and office hours in partnership with the Family Resource Centre (FRC). We also launched the pilot of a driver's preparation program for youth who have passed their written test but need more practice with a seasoned instructor to feel confident in passing their road test, in partnership with the Portage Learning and Literacy Centre (PLLC). Another highlight was working with FRC, PLLC, and Infinity Career and Development Consulting to launch *Adulting 101*, which is a workshop series aimed at youth to cover life skills and topics such as taxes, budgeting, renting, or sex-ed. Lastly, we piloted two granting programs aimed at youth: "Small Grants for Youth" and "Life Long Learning Grants" where youth could apply for \$500 to run a community project or event, or to reduce a barrier to their education or employment goals respectively.



A guiding principle of the CBYF program is that we are by youth, for youth, so all of the ideas for these programs were ones that youth brought to us to create in the community. We look forward to taking the lessons learned from these pilot programs to explore how they can evolve to become sustainable in our community.



# COMMUNITIES BUILDING YOUTH FUTURES CONT.



We also worked on strengthening community capacity to support youth with our network of partners. One major project that was completed this year was a comprehensive Youth Resource Guide. The guide, available both as a print booklet and an interactive online map was designed to be used both by youth and by people who work with youth. We enjoyed getting creative with the launch of the guide by creating a spinning wheel with a trivia game, where youth could use their brand-new guides to answer questions about local resources – and of course: win prizes.

We were also able to share copies of the guide with our leadership table and action group members and to speak at the PLPSD guidance staff meeting to present the guide and collect their ideas for future projects.

astly, as we are also dedicated to continuous learning and evaluation, we worked with the leadership table to formalize some of our plans for the remainder of the 5-year CBYF pilot. We created two documents: an 'evaluation and learning plan' and a 'communications and community engagement plan' that we are excited to use to guide our work and help onboard new members and partners in our initiative. We also got to launch youth surveys on our four focus areas of youth engagement, mental health, education, and employment and we received over 350 responses which will be analyzed and shared with the wider community in the 22-23 year.



COMMUNITIES BUILDING YOUTH FUTURES CONT.

# REACHING HOME

Reaching Home continues to assist in the struggle with homelessness in Portage la Prairie. Reaching Home was able to conduct a Point in Time Count on May 5- 6th, 2021. The event was modified several times to meet the ever-changing COVID-19 restrictions, however, the count was still a success. Each participant who took part in the survey received a Reaching Home backpack that contained many items like face mask hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes, gift cards for a meal at Tim Hortons, and other things.



The PiT count showed that on average both male and female participants surveyed spent a total of 109 days homeless within the last year. The average age of the female participants was 35 and the average male was 43. 100% of unsheltered participants surveyed were male and of that 66.7% were Caucasian and 33.3% identified as indigenous. 42.9% of sheltered participants surveyed were female and of that 100% identified as indigenous, 21.4% were male and of those 50% identified as indigenous. The most disturbing factor was that 35.7% of the participants involved in the survey were children.

Reaching Home received funding from the Portage Urban Indigenous People's Coalition to help support the Indigenous Peoples of Portage who were involved with PiT Count and Magnet Event.

Reaching Home was able to implement an affordable Housing Survey. The survey was sent out to numerous Portage la Prairie agencies and in turn to their patrons. The survey was also available on the PCRC website to complete, or by telephone.

The support for folks struggling with homelessness became even more difficult with the closing of the Community Shelter in August of 2021. The Reaching Home Team was thus sent into an overhaul, with two additional Case Managers, and an Ask Auntie position being added to the team. Almost immediately the caseload of Reaching Home clients grew from 2 individuals to 7. Support began with community outreach involving foot patrols within the community as well as referrals from the Community Shelter upon the closing.



# REACHING HOME

During the foot patrols which took place twice weekly, the team observed anywhere from 6-15 individuals struggling with homelessness. Of the 7 in the early stages of the new Reaching Home team, 5 individuals were housed in the community, while the other 2 decided not to stay in Portage La Prairie. The Reaching Home caseload continues to grow with a successful housing placement for many of the clients.

Reaching Home was able to help the Portage Urban Indigenous Vaccine Clinic with support to use the HIFIS information system, as well as help in issuing I.D.'s that may have been needed for individuals accessing a COVID vaccine.

The Reaching Home team helped to support a summer student, along with the Community Shelter (until its closing) and the Wawokiya Program. The Reaching Home Team was able to help in distributing Christmas Hampers provided by the Family Resource Centre. It should be noted that the need for hampers within our community has dramatically increased this holiday season.



The individuals supported through our program have been able to access appointments in town, and out of town with the use of the Proceeds of Crime Van. This has made a huge impact on providing the support needed to maintain housing. Reaching Home built its community presence by creating social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. Reaching Home visits the local radio station to bring awareness to our program and encourage homelessness support. The Reaching Home Team was also able to work with a local Video Editor who helped create a short video that we can use to promote our Program and bring awareness to Housing First.

The caseload of Reaching Home Participants has grown over the Pandemic, although the results in housing participants have increased also. Reaching Home continues to work closely with other local agencies to support the homeless population of Portage La Prairie.



# INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

The Portage Urban Indigenous People's Coalition continued another successful year in 2022. The Coalition met virtually once a month and personally where possible to discuss the priorities identified in our strategic plan. We continued to public educate on reconciliation and improve our collaborations with the City and organizations. Our Coalition is comprised of 18 members and 11 identify as Indigenous. Portage Urban Indigenous People's Coalition consists of:

- 4 Urban Indigenous Citizens
- Portage City Manager
- 2 members of City Council
- Portage Friendship Centre
- Portage Community Revitalization Corporation
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Health Sante Sud
- Manitoba Metis Federation Southwest
- Red River Polytech
- Portage School Division
- Portage Regional Economic Development
- Urban Indigenous Coordinator
- Urban Indigenous Assistant
- Urban Indigenous Elder





# INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

## Portage Urban Indigenous Strategy 2020-2023:

As mentioned, our Coalition identified the following priorities in our Strategic Plan and further created subcommittees per priority. Our Strategic Plan consists of:

- Youth Strategy and Engagement
- Education and Awareness
- Culture and Language
- Employment and Skill Development
- Housing and Homelessness
- Relations and Collaboration

Portage Urban Indigenous Peoples Coalition continues to participate where necessary as we work towards a strong and respectful relationship between our Urban Indigenous citizens and the City of Portage la Prairie.

## Indigenous Community Support Fund:

In March, the Government of Canada announced \$305 million for a new distinct-based Indigenous Community Support Fund through the COVID -19 Response Plan. This plan allowed our Coalition to successfully address the immediate needs of our Urban Indigenous community and off-Reserve Indigenous organizations. PUIPC distributed \$450,000 to Resource Providers in Portage la Prairie. This Fund supported:

- Recreational Opportunities for Kids
- PUIPC Van – support Urban Indigenous/transport families and individuals
- Family Resource Centre – Mental Health
- Portage Justice Committee – COVID supplies
- Reaching Home – emergency food supplies and COVID Kits
- Harm Reduction Network – COVID personal equipment
- Wawokiya – emergency gift cards
- Bear Clan – food hampers and cleaning supplies
- Wee World Daycare – hot meals, snacks, emergency clothing





# INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

- Define U Counselling – Mental Health, Grief, and Loss
- Family Abuse Prevention Centre – Mental Health
- Youth for Christ – cooking classes and cleaning supplies –Indigenous youth
- CMHA – provide spirit counseling for Indigenous Elders
- Portage Community Shelter – supplies and PPE
- Music for Mental Health – purchase guitars – Indigenous Youth –Virtual lessons
- Family Abuse Prevention Centre – provide pre-made meals for families in isolation
- Fresh Food and Cleaning supplies – 140 families
- Community Van – provide transportation to Urban Indigenous Vaccination site
- Moon Time Kits – 120-period products and kits for Indigenous families
- Basketball for Youth – provided 30 basketballs to Indigenous youth
- Community Food Matters – provided farm dollars and shuttle rides
- Urban Indigenous Seniors/Elders Program – provided culturally sensitive emergency kits to Urban Indigenous Elders

## Circles for Reconciliation:

Our Portage Circles for Reconciliation Group was successful this year and the positive feedback received was overwhelming. Our Group covered topics such as Treaties, Indian Act, 94 Calls to Action, Residential School, Sixties Scoop, Indigenous History, Dispelling Misconceptions, Intergenerational Trauma, Reconciliation, and Meaning of Land. The aim of Circles for Reconciliation is to establish trusting, meaningful relationships between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples as part of the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Presentations were also requested and made to the Catholic Church (virtual) and Portage Mackenzie Church on Treaties and Reconciliation.





# INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

## Culture and Heritage:

Portage Urban Indigenous Peoples Coalition in cooperation with Southport Aerospace Centre officially opened Four Winds Cultural Centre located in Southport on September 30th. This cultural space includes a “Tipi”, Sweat Lodge, and a Picnic area. The opening ceremonies included the participation of First Nation Chiefs, the CEO of Southport, the Mayor of the City of Portage la Prairie, and other delegates. The Grand opening concluded with an honor song and feast. Four Winds Cultural Centre remains open to those requesting a Sweat lodge and Tipi open for Cultural Teachings. This cultural space continues to be utilized by the community and educators for Indigenous history teachings.



## National Indigenous People’s Day:

June 21st was National Indigenous Day and the City celebrated the day by signing off a proclamation commemorating the day. The City and Long Plain First Nation Chief held a Flag Raising Ceremony in recognition of Treaty 1 territory. The Portage School Division held commemorating events throughout the City in recognition of the day.





# INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

## Truth and Reconciliation Week:

In celebration of Truth and Reconciliation week, the City signed a Proclamation commemorating the week of September 27th to October 1st as Truth and Reconciliation week. In honor of the week, events were held throughout the City commemorating the week. The City concluded the week by raising the “Every Child Matter” Flag at City Hall on September 30th.

## Reconciliation Awareness Day:

Portage Community Revitalization Corporation celebrated September 30th Orange T-shirt day with festivities at Simplot Park. The cultural awareness day featured the building of a Tipi, drumming, storytelling, tattoos, bannock making, and pow-wow demonstrations. Approximately 400 people participated in the event.



## Every Child Matters Handprints:

In commemoration of unmarked graves found in Kamloops and elsewhere, as part of Indigenous Reconciliation week, our Coalition organized with all schools in the division to place their orange palm print on the Portage Crescent Lake walkway. Portage Daycares, organizations, as well as community members, participated. A total of 8,995 orange palm prints were placed on the walkway.

## Portage Urban Indigenous Vaccination Clinic

In May 2021, Portage la Prairie was one of the 5 Urban Indigenous Clinics selected by the Province of Manitoba in providing COVID-19 Vaccinations. The Portage Urban Indigenous Peoples Coalition participated in providing cultural support to the clinic.



# INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

This initiative provided us with an opportunity for public education on the Indigenous history of Portage la Prairie. Besides the daily smudging, participants also view a cultural PowerPoint each day. Participants when exiting received a tobacco tie with a card attached explaining the significance of our traditional medicine along with a bagged lunch. The Clinic concluded in March and provided 9,365 vaccinations with 1,443 identified as First Nation, 1,825 identified as Metis, 6 Inuit, and 44 identified as Homeless.



## Education for Reconciliation

The Portage Urban Indigenous Peoples Coalition continues to provide support to the local School Division. Throughout the school year, we provide cultural support where needed in honoring the real Indigenous history in the curriculum.

## Anti-Racism Week:

The Coalition participated in the organizing “Anti-Racism Week” being held on September 11th-17th 2021. The theme is titled Becoming, Being, and Belonging to a Community of Allies. The week included various events on the topic and concluded with a walk from Stride Place Portage to the Portage National Indian Residential School Museum.



# INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

## Labour Market Review Study:

The Portage Urban Indigenous Peoples Coalition participated in a Labour Market Review study in Portage la Prairie by Urban Systems of Winnipeg. This review will include data on knowing our community of Portage. As part of their study, an Indigenous Focus Group was created and a session was held to discuss challenges facing Urban Indigenous as well as potential opportunities and solutions.



## National Urban Indigenous Coalitions:

The Portage Urban Indigenous Peoples Coalition participates virtually on monthly calls with the National Urban Indigenous Coalition Vancouver. Also participating were Indigenous Service Canada Regional Manitoba Office and HQ Indigenous Service Canada representatives. Our monthly meetings with Canada have improved our relations as we work towards developing a National Strategy and collectively speak on behalf of the Urban Indigenous Communities.

## Manitoba Urban Indigenous Coalitions:

PUIPC also continues to meet monthly with Coordinators from Winnipeg, Brandon, Thompson, and The Pas. These meetings are chaired by our Manitoba Regional Indigenous Service Canada representatives and help improve our communication and awareness of community issues and initiatives. The meetings also provided awareness of Urban Indigenous issues facing each community and the challenges we face as we work towards advocating collectively.



# INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

## Language and Culture:

Our Coalition in cooperation with the Portage Recreational Opportunities for Kids organized virtual language classes in Ojibway in March. The 2-hour language virtual classes included a meal delivered to all participants. Both young and old participated as we received positive feedback from the experience. The instructor was an Indigenous teacher from the Portage School Division who teaches Ojibway. Helping the instructor was an Indigenous youth responsible for the IT and zoom communications and applications.



## All My Relations:

Portage Community Revitalization Corporation, Portage Local Immigration, Portage School Division, Portage Urban Indigenous Peoples Coalition, and Portage National Indian Residential Museum created a project called “All My Relations”. The project includes cultural diversity, cultural awareness, museum tours, immigration, Circles for Reconciliation themes, Indigenous history, barriers, and bias facing both Indigenous and immigrants. This project would decolonize the lens and what allies in the community can do better to support those individuals in our community. The All My Relations committee meets monthly.

## Indigenous Enrichment Gathering:

To conclude March 2022, the Portage Urban Indigenous Peoples Coalition, Portage Bear Clan, and Portage Community Revitalization Corporation hosted an Indigenous Enrichment Gathering held at the Glesby Centre in Portage. The gathering featured jingle dress dance lessons, mini pow wow, the 7 teachings, smudging and tobacco teachings, art displays, a language component, beading, storytelling, and entertainment. The event was held on March 22nd with approximately 300 individuals participating.

We further would like to add that as your Indigenous Community Coordinator, I am an active member of the following committees: The Anti-Racism Committee, Portage Tourism Committee, All My Relations Committee, and more recently, became a Board Member of the Portage Community Foundation.

## **LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)**

The Local Immigration Partnership saw some of our planning and proposals pay off, as well as some other organizations' plans and proposals, as the Economic Development Impact Study and the Labour Market Needs Assessment were both completed, as is our involvement with the city's Transportation Feasibility Study. There is still a lot of work to do based on the conclusions of these undertakings but it is rewarding to see some things moving from discussion and planning phases into action phases.

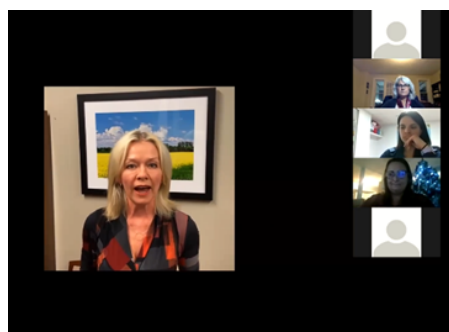


We have also completely re-vamped our website and created a new domain ([www.immigratetoportage.com](http://www.immigratetoportage.com)) that we hope people interested in moving to our community, or who already live here and want to learn more, can access to find all the resources and information they need. We also partnered with the Portage Learning and Literacy Centre to allow visitors to the website to ask questions directly to settlement staff should they so desire.

# LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

The LIP was pleased to organize the first-ever Anti-Racism Week in Portage la Prairie. The week saw several organizations participating with their own events, including the theater putting on a special showing of Beans, and the library's Human Library project. The week was capped off by a march from Stride Place to the Rufus Prince building which saw roughly 250 people participate, who then listened to speeches by representatives from Long Plain First Nation, the City of Portage la Prairie, and Circles for Reconciliation. In addition to Anti-Racism Week, the LIP's Cultural Connector partnered with the Community Auntie and the School Division on a project called "Paving the Way Home" to have youth put a set of hand prints down, mostly on the crescent, for each unmarked grave that's estimated to exist from residential schools, which is over 6000. The project has counted more than 7000 hand prints so far, with each school in the city participating with all of their students, as well as several child care centers.

We also partnered with several organizations to hold the first-ever Women in Agriculture Week, which highlighted and showed appreciation for the contributions women have made to the agricultural sector, with special consideration on the impacts of newcomer women, and the lessons we can learn from other cultures as Portage farmers participate in an ever-expanding global marketplace. We even had a special appearance from our Member of Parliament, the Honourable Candice Bergen, who submitted a video greeting to the audience!





# LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

As the world opened back up this year, LIP staff had the privilege of attending the 24th Metropolis Conference in Vancouver, BC where we had the pleasure of connecting in person with other local immigration partnerships as well as settlement staff from around the country and learning from their promising practices. In addition to conference attendance being possible again, so too were in-person events, which we took advantage of by partnering with the Portage Learning and Literacy Centre to hold culturally considerate swim classes for newcomers, including a beach day with the R.C.M.P. to learn about water safety.

The LIP's Social Planning Committee partnered with PCRC's Ask Auntie program, and Real Food, to do a virtual meal event called Come Dine With Us where we served a version of dry meat soup made with wild boar, and people were welcomed to join in to prepare their meal and learn about the history and importance of the dish. It was a great first event for the Social Planning Committee, and we had good participation from newcomers interested in learning more about Indigenous cultures.



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS  
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL  
Museum of Canada Inc.

This year, the LIP collaborated with other staff to work on an affordable housing solution which has resulted in two plots of land being sold to P.C.R.C. from the city for \$1 and an accepted proposal to begin construction on a five-unit affordable housing complex. We hope construction will begin in the new fiscal year. We also worked closely with fellow staff on applying for a Rural Transit Solutions grant which, if successful, would allow our community to purchase five electric buses, and the storage and charging facilities to house them.

# LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

Additionally, the LIP was very excited and honoured to partner with the National Indigenous Residential School Museum of Canada on a research project aimed at collecting stories, knowledge, and records of elders and other knowledge keepers to not only preserve that cultural understanding but to have it compiled so other organizations can draw upon that knowledge base when needed. The project will also encompass



non-Indigenous, but still underrepresented, cultural knowledge bases such as immigrants and refugees who have formed part of our shared cultural heritage as Portagers. The project will be year-long and we look forward to broadening our understanding of the cultural and historical ties that bind us together.

The LIP has also been hard at work behind the scenes, attending a special meeting with both the city and R.M. councils to discuss the creation of a special community-driven immigration initiative that will allow both municipalities to coordinate together on the immigration needs of our community. This will help local businesses access the benefits of utilizing immigration as a means of addressing labour shortages without the administrative burden of figuring out a complicated process. It should hopefully also allow our community to address the needs of newcomers before they arrive in a more coordinated fashion as it will be the community itself that is inviting them to live here, not a specific business.

# LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

We have also started the Early Childhood Educator Star of the Week program which highlights and celebrates the contributions that early childhood educators make to our community. While we understand and continue to work on large issues affecting childcare in the community, we hope that we can build a community of support for childcare workers to ease some of the burdens associated with being an underappreciated but extremely essential worker.



Because partnership is right in our name, we are always excited and pleased when other organizations reach out to us for support. One such occasion was the Fright at the Museum event that took place leading up to Halloween. The LIP was very excited to get in costume and scare the pants off some local youths, and because immigration is also in our name we made sure to include scary stories from across the cultural spectrum.

Finally, the LIP was very pleased to have a proposal accepted by Red River College's ACE Project Space which matches up students with projects that align with their educational goals, but also their passions and beliefs. The proposal was to create an application that users can download on their phones which will show them lesser-known culturally and historically significant sites, give people a guided tour if they want, or allow them to randomly explore the sites in the city. The project will hopefully continue into the student's second term, as they are very excited about the project and fun to work with.



# SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Aani Boozhoo, Taanishi, and Bonjour,

This year was the second year in a row that was impacted by Covid and public health guidelines. Covid Restrictions definitely impacted mental health, as this was apparent in many of the program funding requests. Covid also caused gatherings and events to be limited, reduced or cancelled. Many activities/programs had to be held in smaller groups, outdoors or virtually.

## Small Grants

The Community Facilitator administers the Small Grant Program. Total funding distributed into Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Project was \$35,125. Please see below a breakdown of Small Grant funding.

Breakdown of Grants (auto calculated)	
# of Projects	15
# Approved	10
# Declined	5
# Withdrawn	0

Financial Impact	
Funds Requested	\$64,000.00
Funds Approved	\$35,125.00
SGF Paid Out	\$35,125.00
Funds Leveraged	\$288,283.00

Breakdown of Projects by Primary Category (auto calculated)	
Capacity_Building	2
Well_Being	4
Stability	2
Community_Connecting	7
Economic_Development	0

Participation Overview	
People Served	15645
Volunteers	130

# SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

## Small Grants Fund 2021/22

Applicant Name	Project Name	Primary Category (drop down)	SGF Amount Approved (\$)
Yellowquill School	Family Room	Community_Connecting	\$ 5,000.00
Portage la Prairie School Division	Empowering Ikwe Summer Program	Capacity_Building	\$ 4,000.00
Family Abuse Prevention Centre	Engaging Youth	Well_Being	\$ 5,000.00
Portage Learning and Literacy Centre	Summer Youth Engagement	Community_Connecting	\$ 5,000.00
Community Food Matters	Farm Dollars Program	Community_Connecting	\$ 3,000.00
Family Resource Centre	Program Expansion	Community_Connecting	\$ 2,500.00
Portage Regional Recreation Authority	Summer Day Camp Supplies	Well_Being	\$ 500.00
Community Foundation of Portage and District	Community Assessment	Community_Connecting	\$ 5,000.00
Portage Collegiate Institution	Student Re-Engagement	Capacity_Building	\$ 2,500.00
Ecole Arthur Meighan	Lunch Program	Well_Being	\$ 2,625.00



SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM CONT.

# COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

## Additional Grants

The Community Facilitator collaborates with organizations and other programs within the PCRC to apply for grants for programs/events. Please see below the funding applications/proposals that the Community Facilitator completed or assisted with:

Grants Completed in 2021-2022	Amount Requested	Description	Partner Organization	Status (as of March 31/22)
COOP Community Spaces	\$ 150,000.00	Skate Park	Parks Committee	Pending
COOP Community Spaces	\$ 75,000.00	Outdoor Rink	Koko Platz	Pending
Buidling Sustainable Communities	\$ 20,000.00	Drainage Repair at PCRC	PCRC	Pending
Federal Grant - ICS	\$ 900,000.00	Indigenous Innovative Park (Island Park)	PUIPC	Declined
Buidling Sustainable Communities	\$ 150,000.00	Koko Platz Outdoor Rink	Koko Platz	Pending
Crime Prevention Action Fund	\$ 3,000,000.00	Mobile Crisis Unit and Youth Hub	Wawokiya	Pending
ICS Funding Emergency Covid Relief	\$ 103,000.00	Multiple Organizations in Portage la Prairie	PUIPC	Approved
Federal Transit Solutions	\$ 3,500,000.00	Connectng outlying communities to PLAP	PUIPC/Dakota TIPP	Pending
CN Rail Communities	\$ 25,000.00	Skate Park	Parks Committee	Approved
Affordable Housing	\$ 1,124,000.00	First Time Homebuyers Program and Affordable Housing Project	City of Portage	Approved
Community Foundation	\$ 10,000.00	Community Assessment	Community Foundation	Approved
Cednet	\$ 20,000.00	Hire a student intern	CBYF	Approved
<b>TOTAL APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED</b>	<b>\$ 9,077,000.00</b>			
Approved Grants/Proposals by March 31, 2022	\$ 1,282,000.00			

## Committees and Outreach

Portage la Prairie Bear Clan - The Community Facilitator assisted with the March 22, 2022, Indigenous Cultural Gathering Event. This event featured Jingle Dress Dancing, Drummers/Singers, Indigenous Puppet Show, Metis Fiddlers, bannock, Truth and Reconciliation Presentation. There were over 200 guests that attended this event. This event was hosted to help recruit more volunteers for the Bear Clan in Portage la Prairie.



COMMUNITY FACILITATOR.

PAGE 45

# COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

Urban Indigenous Strategy/Portage la Prairie Urban Indigenous People's Coalition - the Community Facilitator assisted with the application and the administration of the Indigenous Community Support (ICS) – Emergency Covid Funding. Some of the programs/events that the ICS Funding supported were:

Free Virtual Indigenous Language Classes (Feb 2022)- Ms. Renata Beaulieu, Jacinda and Jaida Houle presented Ojibway Language Lessons on weekly basis for four weeks. A snack, prizes and booklets were supplied to the 11 students that participated.



Portage Soup Kitchen (First Presbyterian Church) - ICS Funding provided to the Soup Kitchen in Portage la Prairie. The First Presbyterian Church Soup Kitchen provides hot meals daily to at least 20-30 individuals struggling with food security.



# COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

Applicant Organization - Program/Project Provider	Summary	Request \$	Approved
CBYF/Family Resource Centre	ID Clinic	6000	6000
Family Resource Centre	Mental Health Support	10000	5000
Community Food Matters	Food hampers	5000	5000
Indigenous Seniors	Food hampers and activity kits	10000	7000
Soup Kitchen	Food for hot lunches daily	5000	5000
Family Resource Centre	Bikes for Youth Mental Health	25000	25000
Indigenous Language Instructor- Renata Beaulieu	Lessons, Indigenous snack	5000	1576.28
PCRC Community Engagement	Acitivity Kits with Urban Indigenous Activites for children under Covid Isolation requirements. (beading, coloring)	1500	1500
PUIPC , PCRC and Bear Clan	March 22-Urban Indigenous Gathering - included Jingle Dress Dancers, Drumemrs, Fiddlers, Dispersed grocery cards, Puppet show, Truth and Reconcillaition	10000	9987.82
Gas Cards for Van	To assist Urban Indigenous members with transportation		766
Insurance for Van			1492
Family Abuse Prevention Centre	Support satff for Children's Activites	5000	5000
Support Staff/assiatnt for PUIPC/Urban Indigenous Strategy	Support staff assited with programs, projects and events	30000	28177.9
Admin			15225
<b>Total</b>			<b>116725</b>
<b>March 22 Event Breakdown</b>			
Grocery Gift Cards	COOP & Portage Supermarket	5000	
Advertising	Before and during event (radio station present at event)	752	
Venue	rental and tech equipment	250	
Puppet Show	Bighetty and Bighetty (fee, per diem, travel and hotel)	2323.19	
Honorariums	Drummers, Jingle Dress dancers, Fiddle Players	800	
Educational Materials for Displays & Printing	Poster with Indigenous Language Every Child Matters Tattoos	268.64	
Take Home bags with traditional meal	Bags in cluded squash, recipe and spices for traditoanl Indigenous Meal	393.99	
Bannock	Family Abuse Prevention Centre Prepared	200	
Total for March 22 Event		<b>\$ 9,987.82</b>	
Purcahse of Van	To assist with transportation to vaccine clinics, appointments, house hunting, job applications, cultural events and grocery shopping	\$ 47,742.33	

COMMUNITY FACILITATOR CONT.



# COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

September 30 Truth and Reconciliation Event – Every Child Matters Family BBQ and Indigenous Events- Along with nine other organizations/programs the Community Facilitator organized the FREE Family Feast and Children’s events.

Some of the activities that were available at the September 30 event were:

- Lacrosse Demo (hosted by the local hockey team/Portage Terriers)
- Tipi set up
- Cedar tea (Portage Bear Clan) and bannock made on a stick over the fire (Family Resource Centre)
- Jingle Stick craft (ROK- Recreational Opportunities for Kids)
- Every Child Matters Temporary Tattoos
- Story Time in the tipi (Prairie Harbour/ Family Abuse Prevention Centre)
- Jingle Dress Dancing Presentation and lessons
- Drummers and Smudge
- Homestead COOP provided free orange cupcakes for everyone and a volunteer

Thank you to all of the community partners and members who assisted with this event: CBYF, PLIP, Portage Bear Clan, Sirius Security, Portage Terriers, ROK, Family Resource Centre Central Plains Cancer Care, Prairie Harbour, Sobeys and PUIPC.

Thank you to the community members that helped make the day a huge success: Sophia Smoke, Jacinda Houle, Colin James, Jaida Houle, Chris Taylor, Darrell Brown, Kaylib Eagle, Darryl Taylor, Gloria Pelletier and Cornell Pashe.



# COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

## Fundraising

This winter we decided not to do the Coldest Night of the Year Fundraiser for the Reaching Home Program. However, the Community Facilitator collaborated with the Reaching Home team on the start-up of the Flocking Flamingo Fundraiser.

Mr. Mike's Casual Steakhouse's GratiTuesday Fundraiser- in the fall of 2020 PCRC was fortunate to be the recipient of Mr. Mike's GratiTuesday Fundraiser - \$1600!



## Affordable Housing Funding

Through the federal and provincial governments, the City of Portage la Prairie received \$1,124,000 to fund affordable housing projects. PCRC prepared a detailed proposal and presented it to the city, and the PCRC was approved to oversee and manage the Affordable Housing Funding Projects. The Community Facilitator has been organizing and administering the Affordable Housing Build and the Community Roots Program.



- 1) Affordable Housing Five Unit Build - \$774,000
- 2) Housing Study - \$50,000
- 3) Community Roots Program (First Time Homebuyers Program) - \$150,000
- 4) Habitat for Humanity - \$150,000

# COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

## Urban Indigenous Vaccination Clinic May, 2021 - April, 2022

The Community Facilitator assisted with the planning, implementation and coverage of the Urban Indigenous Vaccination Clinic. Before the Indigenous Vaccination Clinic Coordinator was hired, the Community Facilitator helped with booking venue, arranging caterer, hiring staff and arranging Opening Ceremonies.



## Garden Goodie Boxes

Garden Goodie Boxes are mini garden beds that are located in the center of Portage la Prairie. These boxes have vegetables that are planted for the community to pick, eat and share. Local businesses in our community sponsor these Garden Goodie Boxes to help purchase supplies to grow vegetables in the boxes. Our PCRC Summer students and Green Team assist with the maintenance of the Garden Goodie Boxes and the City workers water them! Some of the extra vegetables are picked and delivered to the local soup kitchen. Thank you to Darryl Taylor for all of your help.



# COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

## Farm Dollars Program

The Community Food Matters Committee received funding for the Farm Dollars Program. Farm Dollars are provided to individuals struggling with food security. Farm Dollars are disbursed to organizations that support community members that are struggling. These Farm Dollars can be utilized at our local farmers market to purchase food items. The Community Facilitator administers this program.



## Smile Cookie Fundraiser

The Community Facilitator is an active member (Treasurer) of the Portage la Prairie Parks Committee. In September, the Parks Committee joined up with Tim Hortons to do the Smile Cookie fundraiser. The generous community helped us raise over \$8000 to go toward the Skate/Snow Park.



# INDIGENOUS SENIORS RESOURCE

Indigenous Seniors' Resources is a new support service that the PCRC implemented in April of 2021. It was created to provide support to the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit seniors of Portage that are still living at home and want to remain there. As we age, we face more barriers, often leading to tough decisions such as whether or



not to move into a supportive living home, or find support in the home so that we can age in place as long as we desire.

One of the biggest barriers brought forward was the difficulty in maintaining a lawn. To tackle this barrier, Canadian Tire was approached and they were very willing to help out. They graciously donated a lawn mower to the program so that volunteers would be able to cut the grass for the indigenous seniors in Portage that needed the help. This was a huge asset to the program. Not only were many lawns able to be cut over the summer, but this was also an opportunity to develop relationships with new clients. With Covid-19 restrictions still in place, and seniors being extra cautious, forming relationships with the indigenous seniors of Portage was challenging.

Another way relationships were formed and the program was promoted was by helping out at the Urban Indigenous Vaccine Clinic. There were many benefits to being part of this clinic. To begin, it was a chance to introduce myself to people that came through that identified as indigenous. Putting a face to the program was important. Also, many of the indigenous seniors that came through needed help filling out their consent forms and understanding the process of going through the clinic. Gaining the trust of these people was a slow process that was successful because of opportunities like this.

# INDIGENOUS SENIORS RESOURCE

The biggest success of this year happened over the holidays in December. Indigenous Seniors' Resources received a grant of \$7000 from ICS Funding that was used to feed 60 indigenous seniors and their households over the holidays. Not only was it great to feed these families, but it was also an opportunity to make a connection with the indigenous seniors in Portage. Unlike many other food hampers in Portage, Coop gift certificates were given out to seniors for them to use on foods they prefer. The goal of the Indigenous Seniors' Resources program is to help the indigenous seniors of Portage in maintaining their independence as they age. By doing gift cards instead of food hampers it allowed these seniors to go out and get their groceries at their convenience. Also, many of the people that reached out did not want a traditional turkey dinner over the holidays. With that in mind, as well as the fact that seniors can also have health issues that come with dietary restrictions, gift certificates became the best option. By hand-delivering 60 gift certificates across the city, I was able to make a personal connection with all these individuals. It was a great chance to introduce myself and let these people know that I am here to help them however I can.



Last but not least, Indigenous Seniors' Resources partnered with PUIPC, LIP, and the Bear Clan for the Indigenous Enrichment Gathering in March. This event was a large success where I was able to meet many Indigenous families of Portage in a face-to-face setting. There was a puppet show for the kids, a drum circle, fiddlers and a guitarist, jingle dress dancers and so much more. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet new people while celebrating Indigenous culture and traditions.

# INDIGENOUS SENIORS RESOURCE

As you can see above, there was an ongoing theme for 2021, and that theme was relationship building. Indigenous people have always been about community helping community. It was important to me that the focus of the year was to form those relationships so that I could be seen as an ally in their community. I now know many of the indigenous seniors in Portage in a first name basis relationship, and I look forward to seeing the continual growth in 2022.

## URBAN INDIGENOUS IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

An Urban Indigenous immunization clinic is a culturally safe space for First Nations, Metis and Inuit people. Cultural practices are essential to these clinics to ensure that this health care service is delivered in a way that is respectful and sensitive to the beliefs and needs of our community. We welcome non-Indigenous people and are happy to help everyone in our community receive their vaccine locally.

An Urban Indigenous clinic differs from the supersite clinics in two main ways; cultural safety and outreach work. We offer smudging, display artwork by local Indigenous artists, dress in traditional regalia, play cultural music, display an educational PowerPoint on Indigenous culture, offer forms and signage in 5 different Indigenous languages, give patrons tobacco ties and First Nations liaisons provide support.

# URBAN INDIGENOUS IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

We know that many people in our community are facing barriers to immunization and aim to mitigate those barriers through outreach with community organizations. We are better able to serve the particular needs of our city by working with partners who have strong ties to our Indigenous community or who work with vulnerable populations. We encourage people to call the PCRC vaccine booking line at 204-595-1666.

This way we can better identify ways to help. People appreciate being able to speak to someone local who can help book their appointment, answer questions, listen to their concerns and even arrange free transportation to and from their appointment. We will connect those who are vaccine hesitant to a local nurse who will contact them to discuss their concerns. We want people to feel good about their decision to be vaccinated and information and support is the best way to do that.





# URBAN INDIGENOUS IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

The Province announced that the Urban Indigenous Clinic in Portage la Prairie will be extended until the end of December. Since opening in May, we've vaccinated over 6300 people. We offer both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines. The largest demographic of unvaccinated people in our city right now is those aged 20-40. We will be operating a clinic every

Wednesday until the end of December. Locations and hours vary. The flu shot and childhood immunizations will be offered in addition to Covid-19 vaccines beginning in November.

Seven clinics were facilitated every Tuesday and Wednesday starting January 11th, 962 individuals were vaccinated throughout the month. A new Southern Health team started and bi-weekly meetings were held to ensure communication and collaboration was consistent. The Southern Health team initiated the idea to have another Children's Vax-athon for 5-11-year-olds as they heard the December Vax-athon was successful and many parents/children enjoyed the event and the Clinic received positive feedback. Southern Health will inform the clinic once approval has been confirmed. The clinic began planning for the Children's Vax-athon. L. Myran and K. Fehr were hired in January to fill the Outreach Worker and Indigenous Liaison positions.



# URBAN INDIGENOUS IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

Four regular clinics were facilitated in February and 263 individuals were vaccinated. A Children's Vax-athon was held on February 12th and 124 children were vaccinated. The Vax-athon clinic had extra security, RCMP presence outside the clinic and Southern Health had an extensive safety plan in place, as online threats and a protest was planned at City Hall. The Freedom Convoy was passing through Portage la Prairie on February 12th. The clinics throughout February were slower although the Clinic still saw individuals receiving their first vaccine. L. Myran, Outreach Worker resigned her position and K. Fehr moved into the Outreach Worker position. A decision to move forward with only the Coordinator and Outreach Worker positions as the clinic has slowed down and it is unclear at this time whether the contract with the Province will be renewed. Announcements have been made loosening Provincial restrictions into March.

Five clinics were facilitated in March and 94 individuals were vaccinated. Due to the decrease in numbers attending the clinic, PCRC and Southern Health decided to move the clinic to the Crocus Room, within the Herman Prior Centre. The hours also changed to 12pm to 6pm as traffic is higher between 12pm-1pm and 4pm-6pm. On March 16, 2022 the Province of Manitoba informed PCRC the last vaccine clinic will be Wednesday April 13, 2022 and the Vaccine staff will have until April 30, 2022 to wrap up the clinic and submit all final reporting. Elders, C. Pashe and D. Taylor have provided the vaccine clinic with smudging the facility and vaccines throughout this reporting period. C. Pashe continues to be available to anyone that would request an elder's presence and he has agreed to continue to provide this service until April 13, 2022.

# 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
- CCEDNet
- Government of Manitoba
- Government of Canada
- Tamarack Institute
- Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation
- Southern Health/Sante Sud

In addition, the Portage Community Revitalization Corporation would also like to thank the following partners for sharing with us their wisdom, expertise, and passion for community development.

- Accu-Chek
  - Active Transportation Committee
  - Addictions Foundation of Manitoba
  - AFM
  - BDO Center
  - Big Brothers and Big Sisters
  - Bill's Sticky Fingers
  - Building Sustainable Communities
  - Canadian Base Operations
  - Canadian Blood Services
  - Canadian Mental Health Association
  - Canadian Red Cross
  - Canadian Tire
  - Cancer Plains Services
  - Central Plains Untied Way
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# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Child and Family Services Central MB
- Christianson TDS
- City of Portage la Prairie
- Coldest Night of the Year Teams
- Community Connections Outreach Center
- Community Food Matters Committee
- D & D Music Factory
- Darryl Taylor
- Define U Mental Health
- Dick's Cafe
- Dennis Deslauriers
- Department of Families
- Efficiency Manitoba
- eXp Realty
- Family Abuse Prevention Centre
- Farmer's Market
- Faurshou Ag Centre
- Federal Government of Canada
- Gen Ag
- Golden West Broadcasting
- Herman Prior Centre
- Hi-Tec Industries
- Indigenous and Northern Relations
- Indigenous Support Funding
- Infinity Career Development Consulting
- Jodi Fletcher
- J.R. Simplot Company
- JEM Muscle Therapy
- Lil Figgins
- Manitoba Education and Training
- Manitoba Harm Reduction Network
- Manitoba Housing
- Manitoba Justice
- MANSO
- Mayfair Print Shoppe
- MCC
- McCain Foods (Canada) Ltd.
- McMUNN and Yates
- MDC
- Michif Family Services
- Mil-Jeanne's Flowers and Axencz
- Mole Guacamole
- Mr. Mike's Casual Steakhouse
- Municipal Relations
- New Journey Housing
- Om Indian Cuisine
- Pharmasave
- Portage Conservatory of Music
- Portage Clinic Aesthetics
- Portage Evangelical Church
- Portage Family Resource Centre
- Portage Friendship Centre
- Portage la Prairie Bear Clan

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS CONT.**

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Portage la Prairie Fire Department
- Portage la Prairie Public Art Committee
- Portage la Prairie R.C.M.P.
- Portage la Prairie Regional Library
- Portage la Prairie School Division
- Portage Learning and Literacy Centre
- Portage la Prairie Chambers of Commerce
- Portage Parks Committee
- Portage Signs and Lettering
- Portage Supermarket
- Portage Transport
- Portage Ukrainian Nursery School
- Prairie Fusion Arts & Entertainment
- PRED
- Probation Services
- Province of Manitoba
- PRRA
- R.M. of Portage la Prairie
- Red River College
- RentSmart
- Richardson Milling
- ROK Central
- Rona
- Rose Goodin
- Royal LePage Realty
- Safe at Home Manitoba
- Sam Hart
- Service for Seniors
- Shopper's Drug Mart
- Southern Cheifs Organization
- Southern Health/Sante Sud
- Southport Rec
- Stride Credit Union
- Sunset Palliative Care
- Tim Horton's
- Tornados
- United Way Central Plains
- Wee World Daycare
- Youth for Christ
- Residential Tenancies Branch Manitoba
- Rest A Bit Shelter
- RH Computers

Amazingly, this is not an exhaustive list. Thank you to all the other organizations and people who have supported our work this past year. We look forward to building our community together in the future.

A white L-shaped graphic element consisting of a vertical line on the left and a horizontal line extending to the right, positioned in the bottom-left corner of the page.

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