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**CHRISTIANSON**



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



Portage la Prairie  
Community  
Revitalization  
Corporation

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

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204-240-PCRC (7272)

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020**

James Kostuchuk, Chair

Don Smoke, Vice Chair

Matthew Boschman, Treasurer

Cassandra Pehura, Secretary

Scott Lawrence

Matt Harkness

Shawn Roulette

## **STAFF**

Victoria Espey, Executive Director

Sherri Walker, Office Manager

Vienna Muise, Community Facilitator

Cornell Pashe, Indigenous Community Coordinator

Sonali Kapoor, Community Engagement Coordinator

Lacey Manastyr, Skills Up Coordinator

Paula Jackson, Skills Up Assistant

Brendan Schaan, Wawokiya Coordinator

Pauline Johnston, Reaching Home Coordinator

Mitch Tilk, Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator

Megan Romphf, Cultural Integration Coordinator

Selçuk Koran, Lead Coordinator

Evan Lilley, Community Connector

Anthony Woods, Youth Intern

# STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It always amazes me how much can happen in a year. This year we went from a team of seven to a team of fifteen, we increased revenues by about 30%, and we bought a building giving us a permanent home and the ability to invest in ourselves as we venture in to becoming more self-sustaining. We were able to accomplish these achievements with the assistance of a Board of Directors who offer unwavering support to PCRC year after year and with a team who is tremendously dedicated to their work and their community.



We continue to deliver quality and meaningful programs and supports to our community in areas we know it matters most. An item to note is this year we added two direct service programs to our office; HUB was re-branded and remodeled to the Wawokiya project and Reaching Home was added as a service to those who are experiencing homelessness. We are now over half way through the timeframes in the Five-Year Community Plan that was completed in 2017 and we continue to strive to meet all of the goals that were identified by our community as areas needing attention. It is most important to acknowledge the fact that PCRC commits to working on all projects and programs with a community partner(s) or community experts. Many of our programs are led or guided by steering committees or leadership tables made up of community members, people with lived experience, sector leaders, and members of government. It is those people who support us the most in being able to be leaders of change in the areas of community development and social services. To all of those people, thank you for your continued support and dedication to all of these community projects.

# STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When thinking about our challenges, no one could have foreseen working through a global pandemic caused by the Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19). I am amazed at how quickly our team was able to adapt to working from home, checked in and cared for one another and moving swiftly to identify where the gaps were presenting themselves during a Provincial shutdown. In a matter of a couple of weeks we were able to work with community partners and funders to open an emergency soup kitchen and secure funding for the reopening of the Rest-a-Bit shelter for those most vulnerable in our community. I am proud of the way our community responded and stepped up to offer support and information during unprecedented times. While there are still a few months left in 2020, I'm certain that together with our community, we can tackle any challenge head on. Again, I would like to close by offering sincere gratitude to our Board, our team, our community partners and volunteers and our funders. You are vital to our successes and we owe them all to your combined efforts.

“It is literally true that you can succeed best and quickest by helping others to succeed.”

– Napoleon Hill



# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



I often use Fisher Avenue to cycle to the east end of the city. It is interesting to note the changes over the past ten years. The Skyline Bridge, or "overpass", used to be the largest local canvas for spray painted gang signs. Not anymore.

The eyesore of abandoned materials that once ran parallel to the railway tracks is now replaced with fruit trees. On the path I pass newcomers in brightly coloured clothing, out for a walk, and they nod "hello". My ride takes me across the rainbow path, a sign of community solidarity. As I cross onto the island I am unaware that the homeless man sleeping rough in the park has been connected to the local shelter and social services. Some young people near the duck pond are moving construction materials and picking up garbage. The duck pond hasn't looked this good in years. At one of the picnic tables a graduate from Skills Up recognizes me and waves. I take a shortcut through the Riparian Forest. I didn't even know this sacred space existed until a tobacco ceremony drew me in. As I exit onto the gravel road, I am reminded that I have to get back to work at PCI next week. The project funding has come in for youth futures and the team is ready to get to work. As I loop back along the Avenue I see that the Bear Clan patrol, decked out with safety vests and PPE, are getting ready to walk. Keeping the city safe and tidy, providing citizens with employment opportunities and education, and offering assistance for those in need, are all in a day's work at PCRC. Despite all our efforts we know that most people probably don't know what we do. And we are okay with that. It is the absence of our efforts that would draw attention, and we wouldn't want that.

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

For those that are curious, the mandate of the Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation is to empower citizens, improve neighborhoods, foster community spirit, and build capacity of community organizations. It has been 12 years since PCRC incorporated and our organization has witnessed remarkable growth. Just this spring we purchased our own building. Over the summer our staff grew to 19 individuals with a budget well over one million dollars. This achievement is due to successive boards of motivated and passionate citizens and a highly skilled and capable staff. As chair, I am immensely proud of PCRC and appreciate the family atmosphere of the office. Everyone is valuable to our success, so I am hesitant to draw attention to any individual. However, I must offer the sincere thanks and appreciation of the board to Victoria Espey, our executive director. She is the gel that holds everything together and I admire her wisdom and enthusiasm for making Portage la Prairie the very best place to live.

James Kostuchuk  
Chair, PCRC



# **Annual General Meeting**

## **7pm - Tuesday September 15, 2020**

Welcome Everyone!

Greetings from the Executive Director

James Kostuchuk, PCRC Board Chair

Mayor Irvine Ferris, City of Portage la Prairie

Greeting from the Province of Manitoba

Manon Timshel, Portage la Prairie Bear Clan Coordinator

Caileigh Morrison, Rest-A-Bit Executive Director

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of Minutes from the 2019 Annual General Meeting

Presentation - Pauline Johnston, Reaching Home Coordinator

Presentation - Brendan Schaan, Wawokiya Coordinator

Financial Report

By-Law Changes

Elections to the Board

Closing Remarks

# Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation

## Annual General Meeting - June 18, 2019

### 1. Greetings & Adoption of Agenda

Cornell will open the evening with an opening prayer.

Victoria will welcome guests and thank community partners.

Scott called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm and gave the address from the Chair.

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

### 2. Adoption of Agenda

**Scott:** 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:** Shawn Roulette

**Seconded:** Donny Smoke

### 3. Adoption of Minutes

**Scott:** 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 June 26, 2018.**

**Moved:** Matt Harkness

**Seconded:** James Kostuchuk

### 4. Presenters:

Rhoda Wolfe, Tupper Street Family Resource Centre – Executive Director  
Cornell Pashe, PCRC – Indigenous Community Coordinator  
Heidi Adams & Sonali Kapoor, PCRC – Skills Up Program

**Victoria:** We are welcoming Rhoda Wolfe. Rhoda has her Bachelor of Social work from the University of Manitoba as well as certification in Applied Counselling with a Specialization in Addictions Studies and Aboriginal Counselling Skills from the University of Manitoba. Rhoda has her certification in Focused Oriented Trauma Therapy specializing in complex Trauma, PTSD and Traditional Aboriginal Healing. Rhoda's area of specialty is therapy work with children and is currently the Executive Director of the Tupper Street Family Resource Centre. Rhoda successfully combines life experiences and evidence based best practices to alleviate suffering, strengthen resilience, bring awareness to self-limiting belief and behaviors and successfully assists her clients towards growth and healing.

**Victoria:** Thank you Rhoda. We were so pleased to be able to offer the Tupper Street Family Resource Centre with one of our small grants and glad to hear it has had such a positive impact on your organization

**Victoria:** We would now like to welcome Cornell Pashe. Cornell is the Indigenous Community Coordinator for PCRC and will be giving us an update of his program.

**Victoria:** Thank you Cornell. This program is an exciting addition to our community and has already proven to be an effective tool in collaborating with different agencies we may not have worked with before. We look forward to see what 2019-2020 brings for this program.

**Victoria:** We are welcoming Heidi Adams and Sonali Kapoor. Heidi and Sonali are the Skills Up Family Child Care Program team. Heidi is the Coordinator and Sonali is the Program Assistant. Together they have worked on this exciting pilot to not only expand child care spaces in our community but also provide meaningful employment opportunities for people who were unemployed or underemployed. Welcome Heidi and Sonali.

**Victoria:** Thank you Heidi and Sonali. We are looking forward to the next few weeks as our participants graduate and move in to the process of starting their own, or going to work for a child care facility. We anticipate great things to come from our first cohort.

## **5. Financial Report**

**Scott:** A copy of the draft audited financial statements for 2018-19 has been included with the Annual Report.

Revenue for this year was \$400,659.00 Expenses were \$387,360.00, leaving us with an excess of revenue over expenses of \$13,299.00.

PCRC also experienced a theft of \$20,330 from a contractor hired to complete lease hold improvements. Please see note 9 on the financial statements.

After calculation of the theft, PCRC has an excess deficiency of revenue over expenses of \$7,031.00

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 2018-2019 as presented.**

**Moved: Donny Smoke      Seconded: Don Boddy**

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

**I would like to call for a motion: To appoint Meyers Norris Penny LLC as the auditor for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.**

**Moved: Shawn Roulette      Seconded: Don Smoke**

## **6. Elections to the Board**

**Scott:** Each one of the PCRC Board members brings a unique set of skills, insight and experiences to our organization. New faces allow for new ideas, energy and a fresh perspective. We are pleased to welcome 3 new members to the Board of Directors Shawn Roulette, Matthew Boschman and Tim Arendse (ask them to stand up):

**I would like to call for a motion: that Shawn Roulette, Matthew Boschman and Tim Arendse, be appointed to the PCRC Board of Directors for a 2-year term.**

**Moved: James Kostuchuk      Seconded: Cassandar Pehura**



Shawn, Matthew and Tim will join the following Board members in serving as the PCRC Board of Directors for 2019-2020: Scott Lawrence, Cassandra Pehura, Don Smoke, Matthew Harkness and James Kostuchuk (ask them to stand up)

**Scott:** As per submitted nominations, the following members of the Board shall be appointed to the following Executive positions; James Kostuchuk (Chair), Don Smoke (Vice-Chair), Matthew Boschman (Treasurer) and Cassandra Pehura (Secretary).

**I would like to call for a motion: that James Kostuchuk be appointed as the Chair of the PCRC Board of Directors.**

**Moved:** Matt Harkness                      **Seconded:** Shawn Roulette

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

**Moved:** James Kostuchuk                      **Seconded:** Matt Harkness

**I would like to call for a motion: that Matthew Boschman be appointed as the Treasurer of the PCRC Board of Directors.**

**Moved:** Donny Smoke                      **Seconded:** James Kostuchuk

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

**Moved:** James Kostuchuk                      **Seconded:** Matt Harkness

Would also like to take the time to thank Amy Schofield, Paulyn Appah, Yvette Cuthbert and our two youth members, Arishya Aggarwal and Cailen Boyachek for their service on the Board and wish them well in all future endeavours.

## **7. Closing Remarks**

**Scott:** This concludes our business for today. Thank you to everyone for coming.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signed & Date (Current Chair)**

**I would like to call for a motion: To adjourn the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the PCRC at   6:00   pm.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signed & Date (Past Chair)**

**Moved:** Donny Smoke                      **Seconded:**  
James Kostuchuk

**Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation**  
**Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets**

*For the year ended March 31, 2020*

	2020	2019
<b>Revenue</b>		
Grant revenue		
Federal	278,322	139,753
Provincial	189,691	164,023
Municipal	31,908	27,100
Revitalize Portage - small grants (Note 6)	37,500	37,500
Sponsorship	24,133	12,575
Services	18,294	13,393
Rental income	4,800	5,781
Interest income	2,480	534
Miscellaneous Income	537	-
	<b>587,665</b>	<b>400,659</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Advertising	11,363	14,529
Capital purchases	16,685	33,169
Conferences	4,523	3,125
Contracted services	15,604	23,420
Events	18,876	16,302
Grants - IKWE	545	3,530
Grants - Revitalize Portage (Note 6)	35,125	35,125
Insurance	4,928	1,496
Licences and fees	413	140
Office supplies	10,212	6,287
Professional fees	9,586	12,456
Program related training	74,299	4,713
Rent	30,750	19,823
Salaries and benefits	314,935	190,923
Special projects	1,635	2,177
Supplies	11,688	9,168
Travel	27,568	10,976
	<b>588,735</b>	<b>387,359</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before other items</b>	<b>(1,070)</b>	<b>13,300</b>
<b>Other items</b>		
Loss on missappropriation of funds	-	(20,330)
<b>Deficiency of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>(1,070)</b>	<b>(7,030)</b>
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>55,508</b>	<b>62,538</b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>54,438</b>	<b>55,508</b>

# WAWOKIYA PROJECT

Over the past year, significant changes were made to Portage la Prairie's community mobilization Hub model. Responding to agency and community need, a consent-based wrap around model was adopted. In fall 2019, \$65 000 in funding for the new community mobilization model was secured through Manitoba Justice. This meant that a full-time coordinator was hired for the project. The new project was modeled after the Thunderwing Project in the north end of Winnipeg. Being a part of the Manitoba Community Mobilization and Safety Initiatives Network established connections for the Portage Hub and allowed guidance to change community mobilization models.



The last Hub meeting took place October 31, 2019. Over the 18 months that Portage Hub was in operation, it saw 150 referrals. Of those referrals, 132 were accepted with 78 situations connected to services or informed of services with another 12 connected to services through action outside of the Hub. The top five risk factors were mental health, drugs, basic needs, criminal involvement and parenting.



# WAWOKIYA PROJECT

An Indigenous naming ceremony took place for the new version of the project. John Taylor was asked to perform the ceremony but unfortunately passed away before it took place. His son Darryl Taylor performed the ceremony on his father's behalf. The name given to the project was Wawokiya, which means "those who help" in Dakota. Local high school student, Kaydence Wood, was selected to design a logo for the project.



Wawokiya offers up to a year of support for clients who are experiencing barriers to services or need to be connected to multiple agencies. This allows for longer term support for clients who have more time to build relationships and become well connected to services they may need to use long term. Long term data allows for further evaluation and results of the program which was previously missing from the Hub model in Portage la Prairie. There have been 20 referrals to Wawokiya with 10 of these participants moving forward. This model encompasses more individual service providers from agencies since support teams consist of staff from agencies who do not sit at the Wawokiya table. This broadens agency collaboration and a holistic approach to working with clients.

# 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

## 2019 - 2020 COMMUNITY EVENTS

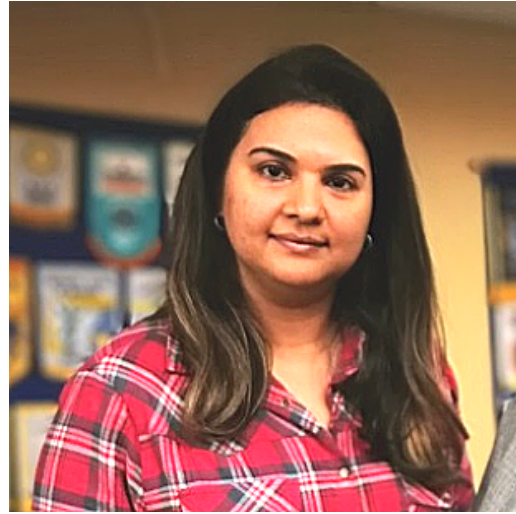
From April 2019 to March 2020, PCRC hosted and partnered on 10 events and neighborhood initiatives in Portage la Prairie. The events took place in a variety of areas of the city and engaged more than 2000 community members. PCRC hosted events with the help of over 1000 volunteers many of which are unique to the organization.

- Spring Beautification Days
- Family Fun & Wellness Expo
- Touch-A-Truck
- Indigenous Days
- Communities in Bloom
- Open House at the Herman Prior Centre
- Fall Beautification Days
- Halloween
- Skate with Santa
- Winterfest



# COMMUNITY PRIDE AND IMAGE

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



## COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

Portage la Prairie participated for the fourth year in Communities in Bloom Tour and received a 5 Blooms rating with a special mention to the Greasy Chain. The committee collected information from community members, City Staff, historians to create 2019 tour highlighting Portage la Prairie environmental actions. The judges and the committee travelled across the city and enjoyed a private dinner afterwards. As a part of the CIB beautification efforts, PCRC continued the Yard of the Week competition.



## BEAUTIFICATION DAYS

Beautification days were held in spring and fall. As a city wide event, this year we were able to reach a total of 700 people. In total the city had 14 clean-ups reaching over 150 bags collected. 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.



## GRAFFITI REMOVAL

The Graffiti Removal team Returned for nine weeks in summer 2019. The team cleaned 28 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.





# SKILLS UP

The first round of the Skills Up Family Childcare Program was successfully completed on September 6th, 2019. A new proposal was submitted for reapplication of the project. In attempts to complete the outcome of providing one-on-one mentorship with those pursuing self-employment.

Project staff have regularly contacted the participants who were

going through the licencing process to see how they were doing in the process and how they could be of assistance. As well there was a social media group created on Facebook for this round of participants to be apart of. Using this the project staff have sent communications on different topics or information that has crossed their desk. For longer-term mentorships, the cohort was connected to MCCA and other social media groups that have been running for several years.



Project Staff followed up with participants for three months beyond the end of the training as a support system to assist with the transition of opening a family childcare home or moving into employment as a childcare assistant and connect them with external supports. A party in the park was organized which gave all the participants a chance to reconnect, network and support each other.

A Final Report was created which had an overview of work done since the program started, project outcomes and goals, profile of all the participants along with the new things that were learned this session.



All of the twelve participants graduated from the program and moved ahead in the childcare field, for some it was quicker and for some it took time as renovations and amendments were required. Ketki Kamath and Amie Brooking were the first two participants to get their home licensed and have been running their home daycare since October 2019. Those going ahead with employment at the day care center, three had been employed and one of them went ahead to take their ECE course. Due to the success of the program, there was an increase of 16 daycare spaces. Should the Skills Up program continue past the first year, in partnership with the Portage la Prairie School Division, the PCRC would be able to track how children that attend daycares run by Skills Up participants compared to their peers who have not attended child care, in regards to the five categories of school readiness. The Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation had received several calls requesting more information on the project. As of March 30, 2020, there were fourteen names on the waiting list for the next round of the Skills Up Family Childcare Program.

# REACHING HOME

In January 2020 the Reaching Home Program grant was approved for Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation. The Reaching Home Coordinator was hired on January 13, 2020. The Reaching Home program is a four year federally funded program through Brandon Neighborhood Renewal Corporation in Brandon, MB. The program is voluntary and assists adults, families and youth experiencing homelessness to secure housing. The participants remain within the program and support and resources are provided until they can independently maintain long term housing security. The Reaching Home program works in collaboration with the Wawokiya program to build on resources and support when participants identify barriers in services and volunteer to engage.

A steering committee was been created in partnership with Canadian Mental Health Association and Rest A Bit Shelter. Brandon Housing First Coordinator, Chris Olsen has shared his experience and knowledge and policy and procedure continues to be developed for the Reaching Home Program.

A local artist, Suzy Laevens of Illustration & Design has created a logo for the Reaching Home Program and a media release will be scheduled in the near future. A brochure will also follow in the next few months.

A Magnet Event and PIT Count is a requirement of the Reaching Home programs throughout Canada. A homelessness survey is facilitated over a 24 hour timeline within the community. The event was planned for March 26, 2020 but due to the COVID19 pandemic has been postponed until March 2021.



A Reaching Home Assistant will be hired and will be responsible for coordinating and implementing the Magnet/Point in Time Count Event within the City of Portage la Prairie.

The Reaching Home Coordinator received certification in the RentSmart program in March 2020 and this program will be facilitated to landlords within Portage la Prairie and individually to participants within the Reaching Home program. Along with Vienna Muisse, we will be planning to facilitate the RentSmart program in the community to interested organizations.



Additional COVID 19 emergency funding from the federal government to PCRC has assisted Rest A Bit Shelter to re-open the doors in a temporary location on Fisher Avenue. Reaching Home and Rest A Bit Shelter are in the process of identifying the needs of homeless individuals within the community and will continue to work together.

The Reaching Home program has five individuals enrolled and has assisted other individuals who have been looking for resources and information. Goals for the Reaching Home Coordinator are implementing the HIFIS database system and Coordinated Access. Training has been postponed until September 2020. Continue to build relationships with community organizations and agencies and educate the community on the Reaching Home program.

Reaching Home Program, PCRC and Wawokiya program have provided frontline services to homeless individuals within and/or travelling through Portage la Prairie during the COVID 19 Pandemic. Eight individuals experiencing homelessness received transportation, shelter, food and resource information throughout COVID 19 and the program continues to provide services and support.

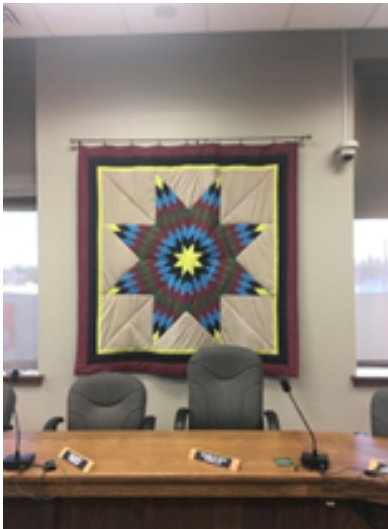
Reaching Home has received additional funding through the Indigenous Community Support Fund. This money will be used to assist Urban Indigenous individuals experiencing homelessness within Portage la Prairie with transportation, food and other essentials.





# INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

This past year has been a challenging year given pandemic measure restrictions and other unforeseen closures. Despite these challenges, we have made progress. As your Indigenous Community Coordinator, we have continued towards our goal of improving the Indigenous relations as well as increasing the collaboration where necessary with the surrounding First Nations, Urban Indigenous citizens and our community.

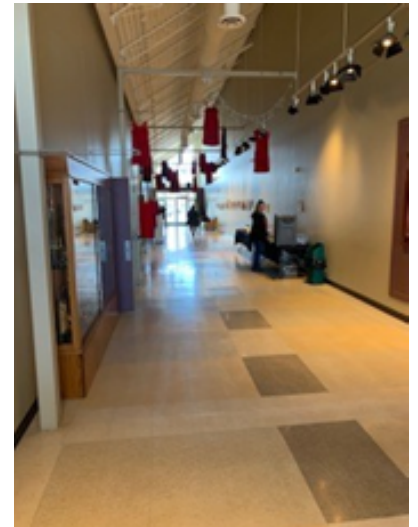


## Portage Urban Indigenous Peoples Coalition:

We are currently in our planning sessions in completion of our Strategic Plan. Based on our three planning sessions, our Coalition has identified our priorities as; Youth Strategy, Education & Awareness, Culture & Language, Employment & Skill Development, Housing & Homelessness, and Relations & Collaboration.

## National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Event:

The walk of solidarity to commemorate the above took place on October 30th at City Hall and concluded at Fusion Centre. The event commenced with a prayer and honor song as well as speeches by the Mayor and Elder Margaret Swan and former Grand Chief of Southern Grand Chiefs Organization. A paint night was also held on Oct 17th to commemorate the theme. The completed paintings were displayed with the hanging of Red Dresses in the foyer of Fusion Centre. A walk took place from City Hall, down Saskatchewan Ave and across to the Fusion Centre. Prior to entering the Centre, participants took part in the hanging of a ribbon and placed on a tree located outside of the Centre. Inside the foyer, a small feast was held and guest speeches by Margaret Swan and Ian Wishart. Approximately 70 people participated.





### SCIS Identification Fair:

2,112 SCIS applications were processed as well as 200 receiving new Manitoba Health Cards, Birth Certificates and Social Insurance Numbers. Vital Statistics Agency (MB) assisted 60 clients with 53 birth certificates, 2 legal name changes, and 5 certificate application issues. Overall, the event was a success considering the demand for enhanced Status Cards as well as those requiring additional identification, with 2060 individuals visiting the event. The identification fair was well received.

This picture was included as part of our contribution to the book of history project. This photo was taken adjacent to the Assiniboine River during the 1900's.



### Youth Strategy:

It is important as part of our strategic planning we include the importance of our Indigenous youth. Our coalition is currently developing within their priorities the need for a youth strategy. We further found based on our survey that Indigenous youth are the fastest growing segment of our national population. They are the fastest growing segment of our population.



### Treaty Acknowledgement:

We would like to begin by acknowledging that we are on Treaty 1 Territory and that the land on which we gather is in the Traditional Territory of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Ojibway, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene Peoples, and the homeland of the Metis Nation.

We respect that the Treaties that were made on these Territories, we acknowledge the harms and the mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous Communities in the Spirit of Reconciliation and Collaboration.

### Skills Up Graduation:

As part of my responsibilities, I am often requested to participate in providing opening prayers. This year I had the opportunity in being apart of Skills Up first ever graduating class.



### Cultural Awareness:

In the months to come, Portage la Prairie in cooperation with the Portage Revitalisation Corporation through our coalition have requested a "Tipi" to be included in our cultural awareness campaign.





### Youth and Elder Conference:

On September 20th 2019 and the Keeshkeemaquah Conference and Gaming Center was the site of our first Youth and Elder Conference. 105 students participated.

Breakout Sessions included Drum Group teachings, Elder teachings, Painting contest and door prizes. Our second Youth and Elder Conference was planned for March 2020 and unfortunately was cancelled due to COVID-19.

### Heritage and Culture:

This year we participated in events that included the celebration of our Heritage and Culture. The Book of History was a project that included photos of Indigenous History as Portage developed as a City. The book captured what photos we could find and include in our collection. In July and August we participated in Fort la Reine's "I Heart Festival" in organizing a cultural display over the course of the weekend. We are also currently participating in the Discovery Patch Garden project, which will feature plants unique to our Indigenous culture. Also significant this year is Southport Aerospace requesting to be a site to include the building of a "sweat lodge". This site will also feature a "Tipi" and be a location for our Urban Indigenous to practice their Heritage.







**Through the Eyes of the Children**

As a teenager, I looked at the drunken old ones with anger, disgust and embarrassment. It seemed they had no pride and my young mind had no idea of why they became that way. Nor did I care. They spoke of spirituality, but all I saw was a drunk. How can they speak this way when they follow an opposite path – I asked. A few years later, I began my “learning”. Researching my culture and our past.

My anger began to gain understanding.

One night, I dreamt of being young. I was in school and it was very frightening and dark. I tried so much to please the teachers, but no matter how much I tried – it was never right. My heart was broken because I could never please them. I was made to feel unworthy, stupid, and unloved. Upon awakening, I saw the face of a psychopath, pictured in my mind – full of crazed hatred, enjoying the torment, he inflicted. His eyes bore into my soul, leaving me terrified.

Thus, I began to paint this picture. I heard the cries of the children, echoing in my mind. Suddenly I understood who those children were, the “drunken old ones”, who endured all the pain and abuse. For these Elders are still crying inside, drinking to forget, numbing the heart – lost in heartbreak.

So, this is why I call this painting “Through the Eyes of the Children”. To understand, we must place ourselves in their place. Remember ourselves as youths and feel how they felt, see what they saw. Forgive me for my young pride, and thank you for enlightenment.

Fred Pashe – Artist & Author

Power To Change:

On September 30th we were invited to participate in the residential school orange shirt day festivities. As apart of the agenda, a tour was given of the Portage Residential School. Above is a photo that captures a story of the residential school era.

**POWER TO CHANGE**

*“From a place of hurting to a place of healing”*  
 Honoring Residential School Survivors, their families, and communities



**Senator & Dr. Mary Jane McCallum**  
 Keynote Speaker  
 Residential School Survivor



Orange Shirt Day Group, Long Point First Nation



At 10:00, Orange Shirt Day at Residential School Survivors Church of Canada

Drum Group – Opening and Closing Song  
 Honoring Children who never made it Home Ceremony  
 Melinda Roulette-Bellon – From Trauma to Healing  
 Living Library – Circle of Survivors & Residential School Survivors - Journey from “Hurt to Healing”

Join us on September 30, 2019  
**Keeshkaemaquah Conference Centre**  
 888 Grosvenor Road West, Portage la Prairie, MB  
 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Food and refreshments will be available. All are invited. We will open the Nation pavilion in celebration with special prayers, to welcome all attendees. Honoring to all survivors and families. We will have a special presentation, and more will be available to all attendees. All are invited to attend. All are invited to attend. All are invited to attend.




# LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

The Local Immigration Partnership program had a productive and fulfilling year. We finished the major tasks outlined in the original contract with the federal government by completing the 2020-2025 action plan. The action plan details the goals of the program, potential partnerships, and timeline for completion over the next five years. Speaking of the next five years, the program was renewed by the federal government for five years with additional funding in place for a second staff member. The Partnership welcomed Megan Romph into the role of Cultural Integration Coordinator. She will be responsible for organizing ethno-cultural communities together to allow them to project a bigger voice in the community. Some other highlights from the quarter include attending holiday activities with newcomers, meeting colleagues from around the country at the national conference, and the family's amazing reaction when they watched the Taste of Portage video on their restaurant, Mole Guacamole.



The Local Immigration Partnership program switched to 'Covid recovery' mode in the wake of the pandemic, having limited working group participation to allow people to focus on their own organization's response. The PLIP participated in a number of the relief measures, helping the emergency soup kitchen secure funding, working with other LIPs in the province to increase Wifi availability, and partnered with Immigration Partnership Winnipeg and others to help with an anti-racism campaign in response to increased anti-Asian sentiment. As restrictions started to ease, the LIP began meeting with working groups more regularly.

# LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

After the killing of George Floyd and subsequent protests, the PLIP partnered with our local RCMP detachment to pilot a program which will see graduating cadets placed with local, front-line, social services to familiarize police with the work these organizations do, and to allow our most vulnerable residents an opportunity to interact with the police in a comfortable, supportive environment.

Working Group Updates:

## Transportation

The transportation working group received a \$1300 grant through Southern Health/Sante Sud to secure funding for the bike lock share program. Some members of the working group noticed that people were rushing through important appointments at their workplace because they didn't have a bike lock and were worried about their bike being stolen. This program will place bike locks at interested locations and people will sign them out much like a library book for their use at the location. The group is working on policies and procedures in anticipation of receiving the grant and establishing the program and will then hand it off to the Active Transportation Committee for maintenance. The transportation working group is hoping to work together with the city's transportation feasibility study but in the meantime will be focusing on creative solutions, such as a dealership financing program for newcomers with no Canadian credit rating.



## Childcare

The childcare working group completed its pamphlet which lists all of the registered childcare options available in the region, as well as provides some helpful tips for people looking for childcare who may be unfamiliar with the processes involved.

# LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

The group also distributed a survey which received over 200 responses and is helping to inform the groups next steps. The group will now be focused on forming a board or committee with the goal of starting a new childcare centre as well as working on updating the previously created pamphlet which listed all childcare options in the city (and some in the RM).. Roughly a dozen people provided contact information and indicated that they are willing to provide assistance towards the creation of a new childcare centre, if we decide to go that route.

## Housing

The housing working group has partnered with New Journey Housing in

Winnipeg, as well as Travel MB, and numerous organization in Portage la Prairie, to bring out a trolley bus full of interested newcomers in Winnipeg to tour, learn about, and experience Portage la Prairie. The tour happened in February and it hopefully generated some interest among the newcomer



communities in Winnipeg to consider relocating to Portage. The housing working group brought out a non-profit housing developer who had a luncheon with the group about the possibility of constructing some rentals and constructing around 30 townhouses in Portage which would be aimed at reducing housing prices for first time home buyers. In addition, the LIP helped PCRC apply for a program which would provide a forgivable loan to pay the down payment for first time homebuyers.



# LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

We have also compiled a rental list which will be distributed to realtors so they can provide some information when people call about renting. Finally, the housing working group met during the shutdown to provide assistance with emergency funding for our local homeless shelter, and has since met to provide their expert input on a housing strategy proposal. They have decided to do some strategic planning and goal setting for this fiscal year in light of modified priorities due to the pandemic

## Employment

The employment and entrepreneur working group will be completing an employee/employer 'guidebook' of sorts, which is designed to be given to new employees recruited from overseas who may be unfamiliar with the resources, rights, and responsibilities on living and working in Canada. This guidebook will be focused on information we may take for granted such as how to see a doctor, how to pay bills, and general customs and practices in Canadian workplaces. The group has decided to do a 'Covid Response Survey' which will hopefully provide us with information on what aspects of the Covid response worked well and what didn't, particularly for business owners. The PLIP has also helped to connect interested newcomer entrepreneurs with PRED and other business-minded organizations in the community. In addition, we will hopefully be presenting to City Council requesting that a direct stream to the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program be opened by the municipality so it can be an addition tool to solve the labour shortage and aging population crunch that we predict is coming our way. They'll also be working on possibly having another Beyond the Perimeter tour and lining it up with the Portage Chamber of Commerce's Career Expo day.

# LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

## Public and Indigenous Relations

The first video in the Tastes of Portage series was completed and published. The series is designed to highlight ethnic restaurants in our community as a way to build connections in people's minds about the importance immigration has on the culture of a community. The first video was about Mole Guacamole and has been very well received.

Future videos are planned for Om Indian Cuisine, Bill's Sticky Fingers, and Dick's Café. With the help of the City, and generous support from local businesses and organizations

The PR/I group was mostly working on the Prince Ermias visit and also had some curling tickets to give away but both of things are on hold due to Covid-19,

but in the meantime they will be doing a new newspaper column, continuing the newcomer stories blog, and keeping in touch with the School Division about when we can continue the Tastes of Portage video series. The group has helped PLIP navigate through its role in combating racism, particularly in response to the killing of George Floyd and the subsequent outcry for help. The PLIP will be conducting a snapshot of current demographics in Portage la Prairie and approaching organizations and businesses to ask them, without prescription, if their board/staff/clients/customers/etc. generally line up with the demographics of Portage and if not, why do they think discrepancies might exist. Additionally, the PLIP has partnered with the Portage Learning and Literacy Centre to support an Anti-Racism Workshop.



# SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

The PCRC Small Grants Program make it possible for businesses, not for profits, organizations, and clubs/committees to start, continue, expand and streamline grassroots projects, programs, and one time events. PCRC's Small Grants Committee is able to look at all proposals and based on current community need and desire, with the small grants program, bring that plan closer to fruition. During the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

<b># of Projects</b>	18
Approved	11
Declined	7
Withdrawn	0
<b>Financial Impact</b>	<b># of Dollars Spent</b>
Funds Requested	\$60,923.49
Funds Approved /payed out	\$30,125.00
Funds Leveraged	\$116,131.71
<b>Participation Overview</b>	<b>Participation #</b>
Volunteers	455
People Served	
<b>Project Category</b>	<b># of Projects</b>
Capacity Building	2
Well-Being	8
Community Connecting	1
Economic Development	6

# SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

## Affordable Recreation & Improved Facilities Small Grants Program

- Ecole Crescentview – Playground
- Recreational Opportunities for Kids – Northside Summer Camp
- Sunset Palliative Care – 3rd Cancer Care Room
- Portage la Prairie School Division – Food Programs
- North Memorial School – Community Feast
- Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation – Bear Clan (Portage la Prairie Chapter)
- Whoop & Hollar Folk Fest – Open Mike & Jam Night
- Portage Regional Library – Programming Costs
- Portage Urban Indigenous People’s Coalition – Tee Pee
- Portage Regional Recreation Authority – Parent & Child Free Swim & Socialize
- Ecole Arthur Meighan – Playground Upgrade



# SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

## PORTAGE PARKS COMMITTEE (PPC)

The 2019-2020 was another great year of growth for PPC. With the generosity of Stride Credit Union, Tim Horton's Smile Cookies, the Yuell family, a grant received from the Portage la Prairie Public Art Committee, and Manitoba Municipal Relations (Building Sustainable Communities Program), PPC with previously raised/donated funds, are able to move ahead with the interactive water feature for Simplot Central Park in 2020. This now allows the committee to move forward and focus on phase 3 of the park. As the vision for the North End sees fruition, and with Simplot's commitment to hosting a yearly commemorative event (that has seen record numbers of Portagers from all areas), renewed interest in this area will help to promote community pride, well-being, affordable recreation, and as an end result, increased traffic and equity to this area of the city.

## PCRC COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

- Portage Parks Committee
- Community Food Matters Committee
- Small Grants Committee
- Indigenous Women's Council
- Portage Harm Reduction Network
- Portage Active Transportation Committee





# 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
- Government of Canada
- Tamarack Institute
- Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation

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
- Canadian Blood Services
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Canadian Red Cross
- Cancer Plains Services
- Central Plains Untied Way
- Child and Family Services Central MB
- City of Portage la Prairie
- Community Connections Outreach Center
- Community Food Matters Committee
- D & D Music Factory

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Define U Mental Health
- Dennis Deslauriers
- Department of Families
- Fauschou Ag Centre
- Federal Government of Canada
- Gen Ag
- Herman Prior Centre
- Hi-Tec Industries
- Indigenous and Northern Relations
- J.R. Simplot Company
- JEM Muscle Therapy
- Manitoba Education and Training
- Manitoba Harm Reduction Network
- Manitoba Housing
- Manitoba Justice
- MANSO
- MCC
- McCain Foods (Canada) Ltd.
- McMUNN and Yates
- MDC
- Michif Family Services
- Mole Guacamole
- Municipal Relations
- New Journey Housing
- Om Indian Cuisine
- Portage Clinic Aesthetics
- Portage Family Resource Centre
- Portage Friendship Centre
- Portage la Prairie Bear Clan
- 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 Supermarket
- Prairie Fusion Arts & Entertainment
- PRED
- Probation Services
- Province of Manitoba
- PRRA
- R.M. of Portage la Prairie
- Red River College
- RentSmart

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS



- Residential Tenancies Branch Manitoba
- Rest A Bit Shelter
- Richardson Milling
- ROK Central
- Rose Goodin
- Royal LePage Realty
- Sam Hart
- Service for Seniors
- Shopper's Drug Mart
- Southern Cheifs Organization
- Southern Health/Sante Sud
- Southport Rec
- Stride Credit Union
- Youth for Christ

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 again in the future.