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CHRISTIANSON



ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



Portage la Prairie
Community
Revitalization
Corporation

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

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204-240-PCRC (7272)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021

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Adele McMurray

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Brandwyn Kinnear

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Rachel Templeton, Community Facilitator

Cornell Pashe, Indigenous Community Coordinator

Jacinda Houle, PUIPC Assistant

Caileigh Morrison, Community Shelter Coordinator

Sonali Kapoor, Community Engagement Coordinator

Brendan Schaan, Wawokiya Coordinator

Alescha Anderson, 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

Ryan Lucko, Office Assistant/Youth Intern

Tawnee Kowerchuk, Shelter Support Staff

Luke Towle, Shelter Support Staff

Matthew James, Shelter Support Staff

STAFF



Emily Toews, Shelter Support Staff

Alexa Kowerchuk, Shelter Support Staff

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

Mithun Mathew, Shelter Support Staff

STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every year as I start to write this annual message I sit at my computer with the first line typed then think back on the past year to determine what to talk about, what to highlight, who to thank. I always do so with a smile on my face because the message really doesn't change, I just have to say it in a different way. We have a tremendously strong and cohesive Board of Directors, we have a passionate, dedicated team who have gone through a million changes this year and a community that continues to support us through and through.



As I think on the past year's successes there are definitely a few. We launched a program called Communities Building Youth Futures aimed at building partnerships and working with local youth to develop strategies to improve graduation rates within our local area. PCRC administered over \$270,000 in funding to local organization to support urban Indigenous people throughout the pandemic. This included fresh food hampers, PPE supplies, mental health supports, transportation, access to services, youth activities and much more. Reaching Home supported our unsheltered population by sourcing permanent housing solutions and additional supports including addictions and food security. There are many more highlights that you as a reader will learn about through our annual report.

STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I would like to start by thanking my team. You are all rock stars and your hard work is evident. Thank you for coming to work every day willing to try new things, take on new projects and step up to help your community. To my Board, thank you for all of the volunteer hours you commit to us. I hope you are proud of the work being done and thank you for continuing to take risks and advocate for this organization. Thank you to our community partners who work with us on all of our projects, we appreciate you beyond words. And lastly, thank you to our funders who trust us to take appropriate action. Cheers to 2021-2022 and to the next big thing.

Victoria Espey
Executive Director

“Tough times don’t last; Tough teams do”. – Author unknown.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

PCRC is a corporation with a mission to work with Portage la Prairie to create community. This is a different corporation than one that builds houses or runs a restaurant, but the basic principles are the same. Even though our product is “community”, it still needs to be marketed and refined. Bottom lines matter and so does customer satisfaction.



When Mark Fields improved the fortunes of the Ford Motor Company, he reminded his executives that “culture eats strategy for breakfast”. He understood that positive workplace culture offers a better path to improved productivity than strategy alone. I don’t think that the tremendous growth our organization has achieved over a short span of time would be possible without an office climate that encourages cooperation and responsibility. For this I thank Victoria Espey and a team of people I have come to respect, admire, and trust.

As with any corporation we must plan with the future in mind. We do not know what challenges our community will face. PCRC had no idea, just a short time ago, that so much of our time would be consumed operating a vaccine clinic. From all reports we have done a commendable job, coordinating with the municipality and province to address the largest public health crisis of our generation. Staff were often pushed to their limits, but a feeling of “being in this together” allowed them to present a calm and professional face to those seeking to reduce the spread of COVID-19. That is what it takes to build community.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Our annual report is much more than a corporate requirement. It is a tribute to those who work in our office. I want to thank every staff member at PCRC for the good work you do. Building community comes in many forms, and your dedication makes Portage la Prairie a better place to live.

James Kostuchuk
Chair, PCRC



Annual General Meeting

7pm - Tuesday September 21, 2021

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

Roberto Hernández, Owner - Mole Guacamole

Emily Toews, Portage Evangelical Church Soup Kitchen
Coordinator

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of Minutes from the 2020 Annual General Meeting

Presentation - Rachel Templeton, Community Facilitator

Presentation - Morag Morison, Community Building Youth Futures
Program Coordinator

Financial Report

By-Law Changes

Elections to the Board

Closing Remarks

1. Greetings & Adoption of Agenda

Cornell will open the evening with an opening prayer.

Victoria will welcome guests and thank community partners.

James called the meeting to order at pm 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: Manon Timshel - Portage la Prairie Bear Clan

James: Manon Timshel stepped up to the Coordinator position with the Bear Clan in February of this year. Since then she has made good use of her emergency services background to aid the organization's approach to COVID-19 and serve our city's needs

Caileigh Morrison - Rest-a-Bit Homeless Shelter

James: Caileigh Morrison is the Executive Director of Rest-A-Bit Inc. She moved to Portage la Prairie and started as ED in June of this year. Caileigh's career background is in housing, and she has worked in this capacity at the University of Manitoba, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and Balmoral Hall School. She has almost a decade of experience chairing non-profit boards and recently worked as an intern at 1JustCity in Winnipeg. Caileigh has a Master's in Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies. She is from Ontario and has lived in Manitoba for five years.

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: *Math. H* **Seconded:** *Scott. L*

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 June 26, 2019.

Moved: *Donny. S* **Seconded:** *Cassandra. P*

Article 2 section 2 subsection 1 point 7 from "Members in good standing who are 18 years or older may run and be elected as a member of the Board of Directors" changed to say "The board may appoint a non-voting Youth Member who is a Grade 12 student, in good standing. The Youth Member does not attend in camera sessions of the Board."

Article 4 section 1 subsection 4 point 3 from "at subsequent Annual General Meetings each Director's term will be for two (2) years" changed to say "In some circumstances, a Board motion may be presented to extend a Directors term for a two (2) year term past the Directors three (3) two-year consecutive terms."

Point 4 from "Each Director may serve a maximum of three (3) two-year consecutive terms" changed to say "A board motion may be presented to elect a Director at a monthly Board meeting should a member wish to join the Board of Directors prior to AGM"

And the addition of point 5 "A Board Director elected outside of the AGM will still participate in the swearing in ceremony at the AGM immediately following their election to the Board of Directors"

Article 4 section 1 subsection 6 point 4 from "No Director may vote by proxy" changed to say "Directors may vote by proxy, email, or telephone with the approval of the Executive Director and Chair"

Article 5 section 8 from "The Director shall see the all necessary books and records of the PCRC required by bylaws of the PCRC or by any applicable statute or law are regularly and properly kept." changed to say "The Executive Director at the direction of the Board shall see that all necessary books and records of the PCRC required by bylaws of the PCRC or any applicable statute or law are regularly and properly kept".

I would like to call for a motion: To accept the changed bylaws as presented.

Moved: *Cassandra* Seconded: *Matt. H*

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: *Scott. L* Seconded: *Shawn. R.*

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

Moved: *Matt. B* Seconded: *Cassandra .*

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

Moved: *Matt. H* Seconded: *Scott. L .*

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

We would like to thank Tim Arendse who resigned from the Board in July 2020 for his contributions to PCRC and to the work that we do. Thank you Tim!

7. Closing Remarks

I would like to call for a motion: To
adjourn the 2020 Annual General Meeting
of the PCRC at __ __ pm.

Moved:

Seconded:


Signed & Date (Board Chair)

14/09/2020


Signed & Date (Vice Chair)

14/09/2020

Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation

Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
Revenue		
Grant revenue		
Federal	577,429	278,322
Indigenous Services Canada Fund	338,845	-
Communities building youth futures	235,934	-
Provincial	224,371	189,691
Municipal	41,507	31,908
Community Foundation of Portage	15,525	-
Small grants (Note 11)	37,500	37,500
Government programs (Note 10)	35,000	-
Donations and events	26,860	24,133
Rental income	26,348	4,800
Insurance proceeds	20,534	537
Work experience	4,037	18,294
Interest income	3,574	2,480
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	2,924	-
	1,590,388	587,665
Expenses		
Advertising	20,169	11,363
Amortization	21,914	-
Capital purchases	-	16,685
Client related direct costs	1,760	-
Conferences	1,746	4,523
Contracted services	89,936	15,604
Events	66,675	18,876
Grants	241,670	-
ISC Fund	-	545
Insurance	12,210	4,928
Interest on long-term debt	11,922	-
Licences and fees	4,499	413
Maintenance	19,003	-
Office supplies	13,670	10,212
Participant costs	22,548	-
Professional fees	13,561	9,586
Program related training	55,967	74,299
Rent	34,257	30,750
Salaries and benefits	643,319	314,935
Small grants (Note 11)	37,500	35,125
Special projects	-	1,635
Supplies	153,838	1,504
Travel	15,498	27,568
Utilities	28,910	10,183
	1,510,572	588,734
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	79,816	(1,069)

WAWOKIYA PROJECT

The Wawokiya Project has continued over the COVID-19 pandemic to provide support to at risk individuals and families that call the city of Portage la Prairie home. Through the continued partnerships with other local agencies, the Wawokiya Project offers up to a year of support for clients who are experiencing barriers to services or need to be connected to multiple agencies. This has allowed for longer term support for clients, creating stronger relationships and proper assurance that supports will remain in place following the one year in the project. There have been 39 referrals to Wawokiya this last year with 22 of these participants moving forward.

With all clients presenting with different needs, the data after the one-year mark of the project operating suggests that Mental Health support, 20 of the 22 participants, with Addictions and Housing, 18 of the 22 participants, shortly behind as the more frequent goals that clients are presenting that the Wawokiya Project has connected with.

These stats can be used to express the need of the community and be used for years in the future to ensure that Portage is continuing to build services that will assist to the best of their abilities for the at-risk peoples of the community. This commitment to enhancing these services is represented through the assistance of the Wawokiya System Leadership table which consists of all the managing bodies of local communities which outlined a desire to look at affordable housing in our community, creating a Housing Task Force which is still in the planning and research stage of development.



WAWOKIYA PROJECT



With the COVID-19 pandemic playing such a large roll on the last 12 months, the Wawokiya Project is proud to say both perspective and active clients were supported during the various lockdowns at the easiest convenience of the participants, if that was over the phone, via text or email and also in person where social distancing could take place to ensure clients are receiving the support the desperately need as the community was locking its doors to the vulnerable peoples of the community. Also, through additional funding provided by the Urban Indigenous Peoples Coalition, the Wawokiya Project was able to provide clients with COVID care packages in September which included cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, masks, a grocery card and then a client specific gift to ensure all were being supported and given the best chance to feel safe as youth were returning to class and most adults were going back to work.

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.

2020 - 2021 COMMUNITY EVENTS

From April 2020 to March 2021, PCRC hosted and partnered in 6 different events and neighbourhood initiatives throughout Portage la Prairie. Out of these 6 events, 2 were in person and 4 were virtual due to Covid-19 restrictions. The events engaged community members all across the city.

- Fall Beautification Days
- Halloween Trunk or Treat
- Shades Of Cheer
- Free Yoga Sessions
- Grow Together Gardening Workshop
- Kids In The Kitchen



COMMUNITY PRIDE AND IMAGE

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



TRUNK OR TREAT

PCRC in partnership with the Family Resource Centre and the Portage Chamber of Commerce held Portage la Prairie's first ever Trunk or Treat event which brought families out to the Heritage Square parking lot for some Halloween fun. Residents didn't feel very comfortable with the traditional trick or treating this year, Trunk or Treat seemed to be a safe way for families to enjoy a physically distanced Halloween despite Covid-19 restrictions. 13 businesses participated, they picked a theme, dressed up, decorated the trunk of their car and gave out candy to the kids. The event turned out to be a great success, it was attended by 480 people.



SHADES OF CHEER

PCRC teamed up with ROK, Family Resource Centre and Prairie Fusion & Arts to spread some holiday cheer in Portage la Prairie. A treat bag along with a coloring package was delivered to the door step of all those who registered for the event. The treat bags were donated by Simplot and the coloring sheets for the kids were made by Local artists in Portage la Prairie. All those who participated were encouraged to showcase their artwork and entered to win a draw for a gift basket which was donated by Sobey's. 150 kids received the Shades of Cheer package.



GRAFFITI REMOVAL

The Graffiti Removal team returned for nine weeks in summer 2020. The team cleaned 33 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. PCRC hired a second Green Team in partnership with the Portage Rotary Club to help revitalize the duck pond over at the island.



FREE YOGA SESSIONS

In partnership with a local yoga teacher Lynne Bereza of Breeze Yoga, PCRC offered free virtual yoga classes to the community. The idea came about as a way to help community members connect during the COVID-19 restrictions, while starting a healthy habit at the same time. No special equipment was required and it could be done from the comfort of their homes. The partnership extended for another four weeks as the classes became hugely popular and 155 people benefited from them.



KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

PCRC collaborated with Chef Jay-Ann Ricard to bring free virtual online cooking classes for kids. 43 families signed up for these classes held weekly for four weeks. Children from Portage la Prairie thoroughly enjoyed these classes and left many verbal and written positive comments on social media platforms.



COMMUNITIES BUILDING YOUTH FUTURES (CBYF)

In late 2019, PCRC was approached by the Tamarack Institute with a unique proposal for a 5-year pilot project called “Communities Building Youth Futures” (CBYF). The Tamarack Institute had identified Portage la Prairie as a potential host city for a CBYF initiative and PCRC was well poised to take on the task of being the convening organization for it. CBYF aims to improve the lives of underrepresented youth aged 15-30, particularly with focus on improving high school graduation rates and opportunities in employment and training/education for young community members as they transition out of high school. These large goals can only be achieved through collaborative, community-championed solutions with youth leadership and youth engagement. After a site visit from the Tamarack team in February 2020, a contract was awarded to PCRC for the 20-21 year to launch the CBYF project, with the understanding that the project will run until 2024. Our organization recognizes the support of Tamarack Institute and the Government of Canada through the Goal Getters Program in being able to be a proud host for Communities Building Youth Futures.

The start of the project involved assembling a leadership table of 13 stakeholders from the community. The table included representation from multiple sectors and focused on including youth members. The leadership table members for 20-21 were the following:

- Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation (PCRC)
- Portage School Division
- Southern Health-Santé Sud
- Portage Learning and Literacy Centre (PLLC)
- Youth for Christ (YFC)
- Portage Friendship Centre (PFC)
- Red River College (RRC)
- City of Portage
- Chamber of Commerce
- Portage Regional Economic Development (PRED)
- Long Plain First Nation (LPFN)



Canada

COMMUNITIES BUILDING YOUTH FUTURES CONT.

The leadership table was responsible for shaping the initial vision for the project before staff were brought on in July 2020. The CBYF staff team consists of a lead coordinator, a community connector and a part time youth intern. As the CBYF project aims for community level shifts, it's imperative that the project adheres to a collective impact framework; taking every step with the understanding that this work cannot be done alone. With this in mind, the leadership table was essential in working with the CBYF staff to develop the framework for this multi-year undertaking to ensure everyone was on the same page for how the community would work together to build youth futures.



CBYF Youth Photo Contest Winners

The 20-21 year for the CBYF team had a heavy focus on working with the leadership table and the Tamarack Institute to create a common agenda and the critical shifts that the project will be focusing on in the coming years. The CBYF team also completed significant community consultation through surveys and interviews to determine the four priority areas that the project would be focusing on: youth engagement, mental health, education and employment. It was based on this foundation of collective input and feedback that the CBYF Plan on a Page was created.





At the same time that the staff and leadership table were hard at work on brainstorming, revising and creating the shared goals and vision for CBYF, another element of the project was being launched through Tamarack's Innovation Fund with the Roving Campus experiment located at the Portage Collegiate Institute. The Roving Campus was a unique experiment aimed at the non-attenders of high school who should have theoretically been graduating, but weren't on track to do so. Three teachers at PCI used the innovation fund to create a class that would use the whole province as it's classroom. The primary goal of the project was simply to raise attendance rates and increase graduation rates - which, by the end of March 2021 - they were on track to achieve at the end of the school year despite the public health restrictions in place due to Covid-19.

Another goal of the Roving Campus was to increase democratic citizenship amongst the students, in other words: the teachers of the Roving Campus wanted all the students to walk away from school with the tools and knowledge they needed to succeed in the world. To do this, the students, while obtaining traditional high school credits also learned skills such as budgeting, nutrition planning and how to job search, alongside obtaining training and credentials to expand their employability after graduating. Feedback from the students, teachers and community members involved demonstrated that the school year in the 20-21 year was a resounding success.

With the extensive planning and research conducted in the 20-21 year, CBYF is excited to move forward with a clear vision for how to work with the community to build youth futures.

REACHING HOME

Over the past year The Reaching Home Program has grown into a trusted community resource. Through the continued support of PCRC and The Wawokiya Project, Reaching Home provided frontline services to homeless or nearly homeless individuals within Portage la Prairie during the COVID 19 Pandemic. Two RH participants gained permanent housing while another participant was able to complete a training course and gain employment. Several other participants had the ability to move into CMHA's emergency suites and into the transition suite. Eight individuals experiencing homelessness received transportation, shelter, food and resource information throughout COVID 19 and the program continues to provide services and support. The Reaching Home program has many individuals enrolled at one level of collaboration or another, some individuals come and go and others keep consistent contact.



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.

The Reaching Home Program completed Portage la Prairie's first Point in Time Count (PiT) on May 5 – 6, 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 containing many useful items to help protect themselves and others against COVID-19; such items included disposable and reusable face masks, hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes. The backpacks also contained a gift card to the Portage Supermarket as well as a gift card for a meal at Tim Hortons to address the lack of food security in Portage la Prairie. There were also many items included in the backpacks that attempted to attend to the uncomfortableness of living without a home.



The results from the PiT Count show 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 age of male participants was 43.

REACHING HOME

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 Muise, we will be planning to facilitate the RentSmart program in the community to interested organizations.

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 those 100% identified as Indigenous, 21.4% were male and of those 50% identified as Indigenous, but the most disturbing factor of this survey is that 35.7% of the participants involved in the survey were children.

Although Reaching Home was unable to have a traditional Magnet Event, where people could come together in one location to take part in the surveys and education about homelessness, we were able to modify the event and spread it out over a longer time frame. By doing this Reaching Home was able to support other community agencies such as ROK, The Portage Family Resource Centre, The Bear Clan, The Portage la Prairie Welcome House, The Portage Abuse Prevention Centre and The Portage Soup Kitchen. Each of these agencies received COVID-19 supplies, feminine hygiene products and gift cards to the Portage Supermarket.

Reaching Home also received funding from The Portage Urban Indigenous People's Coalition to help support the Indigenous Peoples of Portage la Prairie who were involved with the PiT Count and Magnet Event. This grant is being used to make care packages for Indigenous youth who are aging out of the Child and Family Service system; meaning they will no longer have the support of the agency and must survive on their own. In order to help reduce youth homelessness each pack will contain a community resource guide to traditional and non-tradition supports in the Portage area, a gift card to The Portage Supermarket, as well as household cleaners and personal COVID – 19 supplies.

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REACHING HOME

While completing the PiT Count and Magnet event, Reaching Home also conducted an affordable rental housing survey. Local Community members were encouraged to fill out the survey by phone, in person or on-line, in order to have their names entered into a draw to win one of two \$150 Portage Supermarket gift cards.

Listed below are the results of the affordable housing survey, the survey appears to illustrate the lack of affordable available housing in Portage la Prairie.

Affordable Housing Survey Results:

Average Monthly Rental Cost Vacancy Rates

1 Bedroom	\$989.00	0%*
2 Bedroom	\$1,064.00	1.63%
3 Bedroom	\$1,219.00	0.00%

*Rates from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca

The Reaching Home Coordinator gained knowledge and access to the HIFIS database system, as well as created a coordinated access system with The Wawokiya Project that directly attends the needs of Portage la Prairie community. The first year of reporting for the Reaching Home Program was completed and submitted to our funders BNRC.

In the most recent part of this year The Reaching Home coordinator was able to support the Indigenous vaccine clinic, by helping clients who did not have any form of identification, booking vaccine appointments and supporting community members with ongoing resources.

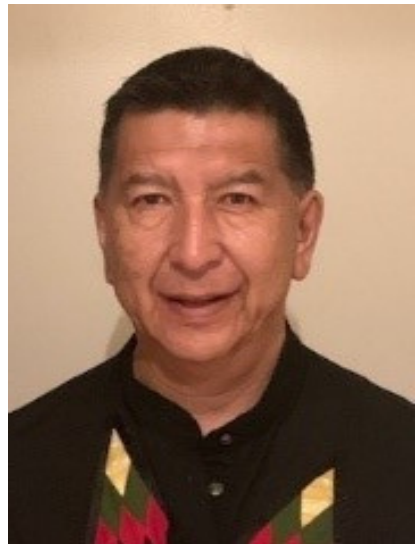


INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

2020 – 2021 has been a successful year for the Portage Urban Indigenous People’s Coalition despite the pandemic restrictions. Our Coalition continued to meet virtually with all of our Coalition members as we worked towards our priorities identified in our Strategic Plan. Monthly meetings continued throughout the year and additional subcommittees created to provide further discussion. Despite our success, we were unable to achieve key actions where it involved community engagements sessions. With the restrictions easing, we hope to achieve our engagement sessions.



Portage Urban Indigenous Peoples Coalition:
Our Coalition continues to meet monthly and more recently, discussions were held in moving our meetings to quarterly with the subcommittees meeting bi-weekly. In March, PUIPC in order to communicate our initiatives, we created our Facebook and twitter communications. This method has allowed us to public educate our Indigenous history, 94 Calls to Action and words of the day. We will continue to update our site and continue to communicate our efforts.



Urban Indigenous Strategy 2020-2023:

As mentioned, our Strategic Plan Priorities identified our Coalition will continue to work towards achieving our tasks defined with each priority. Our Coalition will continue to work towards building of a strong and respectful relationship between the Urban Indigenous community and our Non-indigenous in Portage la Prairie.

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



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

We are currently moving on action items as identified in our strategic plan as a working document and will continue to meet virtually once a month to move initiatives forward in meeting our priority objectives.

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 in the development of Portage la Prairie. As your Indigenous Community Coordinator, I had the opportunity to contribute to the book, our Indigenous perspective.



Four Winds Cultural Centre:

In April, our Coalition Subcommittee given the task of commencing our search in providing a cultural space for our Urban Indigenous to practice their culture and heritage. Southport Aerospace requested their location to be a site to include the building of a “Sweat Lodge” and “Tipi”. This is named Four Winds Cultural Centre. The Grand opening is set for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day September 30th, 2021.

Island Park – Cultural:

Our team also identified an area situated on Island Park. We are currently processing the site and will have a similar cultural concept to Four Winds Cultural Centre. We also discussed an educational component to the site and possible tourism capabilities. Currently, City maintenance is cleaning the site and marking the boundaries to the site.





INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

PUIPC Tipi Awareness and Teachings:

This year our Coalition was able to purchase our very own Tipi to be utilized where needed in teaching opportunities and promoting cultural awareness. PUIPC has also participated in Fort La Reine I Heart Heritage Festival this past summer in creating a space to display our Indigenous history. We also participated and helped other organizations in making presentations to our Indigenous History or simply needing help in the building of their Tipi has to display. Manitoba Development Centre was the latest site requesting help to construct their very own Tipi in recognition of their client requests. PUIPC looks forward to providing awareness where necessary.



Indigenous Community Support Fund:

In March of 2020, the Government of Canada announced \$305 million for a new, distinctions-based Indigenous Community Support Fund through COVID-19 Response Plan to address immediate needs in First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities as well as Urban and off reserve Indigenous Organizations through a call for Proposals. PUIPC participated and submitted proposals on all 4 phases of their call for proposals throughout 2020 and 2021. PUIPC successfully distributed \$248,950 to Resource providers in Portage la Prairie who work with our Urban Indigenous citizens. PUIPC supported the following:

- Recreational Opportunities for Kids
- PUIPC Van – to support urban indigenous /transport families and Individuals
- Family Resource Centre – mental health
- Portage Justice Committee- Covid 19 supplies
- Reaching Home – emergency food supplies and Covid kits
- Harm Reduction Network-Covid personal equipment
- Wawokiya – emergency food gift cards



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

- Bear Clan – food hampers and cleaning supplies
- Wee World Daycare Centre – daily hot meals, snacks emergency clothing and staff
- Define U Counselling – mental health, grief and loss
- Family Abuse Prevention Centre – mental health
- Youth For Christ-cooking classes and supplies-Indigenous youth
- CMHA- provide spirit Counselling with elders
- Portage Community Shelter – additional staffing, supplies and PPE
- Music for Mental Health – purchase of guitars indigenous youth-virtual lessons
- Family Abuse Prevention Centre-provide pre-made meals for families who are isolated
- Fresh Food and Cleaning Supplies Hampers – distributed 140 Hampers to Indigenous families.
- Community Van – provide transportation to Urban Vaccination Clinic and additional support programs within PCRC
- Moon time Kits – 120 period products and kits-Urban Indigenous Families
- Basketballs for Youth – provided 30 Urban Indigenous with basketballs
- Community Food Matters- provided farm dollars and shuttle rides
- Urban Indigenous Seniors/Elders Program-provided culturally sensitive, emergency kits to Urban Indigenous Elders.

Manitoba Coalition's Teleconference and Meetings:

To improve communication and strengthen our Manitoba Region, our Manitoba Coalitions in cooperation with Indigenous Service Canada will now convene a mandatory monthly call and quarterly meetings to update each Coalition to our issues. Our Manitoba Coalition's include Thompson, The Pas, Brandon, Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie. The discussion included future topics for our monthly Intergovernmental meetings.





INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

Of significance to our Coalition is the United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples and how the document is significant to our Local, Regional and National Coalitions.

National Urban Indigenous Coalition Gathering:

PUIPC participated in the National Gathering 2020 February 18th to February 21st in Ottawa 2020. 32 Coalitions from across Canada participated in the theme Working Together-Co-Development. The vision of the conference was to support Urban Indigenous Coalitions in building a strategic partnership based in Indigenous knowledge with Indigenous Services Canada. Canada equally is looking to the Coalitions to not only act in an advisory capacity but also to be also a collective national voice for urban Indigenous coalitions and to shape, inform Indigenous Services Canada in the co development of an Urban Indigenous Strategy.

Education for Reconciliation:

Educating the public is a key component in understanding the issues of the past concerning our Indigenous History. In late September, we participated in the cultural component of the Roving Campus High School concept in taking a day to teach the students how to “fish”. Students took part in the all day event held at the Assiniboine River. The students also participated in a tour of the Indian Trail located on Island Park as part of the local Indigenous history. In celebration of Orange Shirt Day, we participated in a virtual presentation given to the schools on the significance of the day. PUIPC is active in public educating our Indigenous history and culture where necessary.

Circles for Reconciliation:

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.





INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

We are presently looking to organize a group in Portage la Prairie. The group would consist of ten-5 Indigenous and five non-Indigenous meeting once per week for 10 weeks. Our first group of Circles will commence in Jan 2021. Our Coalition made a presentation to Trinity United Church on Treaties and further presented a Circles presentation to Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership in Winkler Manitoba August 17th 2021.

Partnership and Collaboration:

Reconciliation is only a word if not followed by action and here in Portage we have been fortunate to have a caring community that has answered the call with our actions in supporting and develop a working relationship with our Indigenous community of Portage and the surrounding First Nation communities. We further responded in providing public education on the Truth and Reconciliation 94 Calls to Action in the submission of 5 Editorials to Portage Online.

Portage Urban Indigenous Vaccination Clinic

Portage la Prairie was one of the five Urban Indigenous Clinics selected by Manitoba in providing Covid 19 Vaccinations in May. Our Coalition provides cultural support to the clinic to the clinic in smudging the vaccinations as well as the site. Besides the smudging, a traditional drum song is played each morning. Participants also view an Indigenous History and cultural PowerPoint each day. Participants when exiting receive a tobacco tie with a card attached explaining the significance of our traditional medicine along with a bagged lunch. This event is held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week from 11:00 am -6:00 pm held at the Prairie Fusion Centre and will conclude in September.

National Indigenous Peoples Day June 21st 2021

In honour of this national celebration, PUIPC in collaboration with the city of Portage la Prairie, Long Plain First Nation, Dakota Tipi First Nation, signed two proclamations on this day in hanging of the Treaty 1 flag as well as the signing of a proclamation recognizing this day.

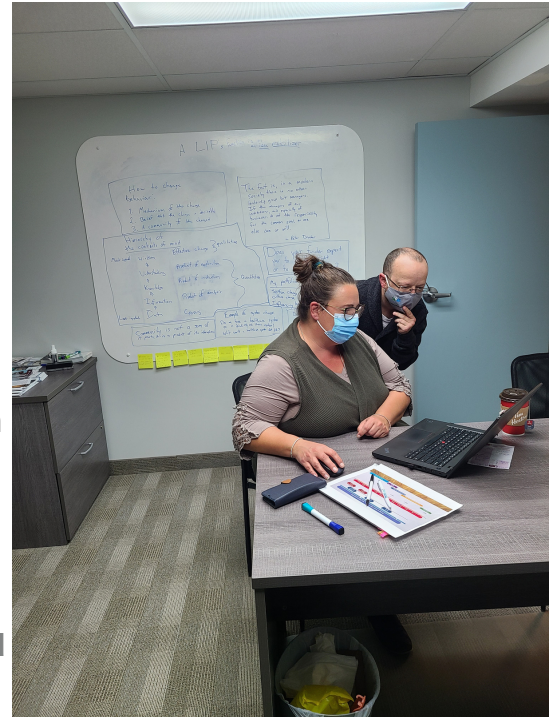
Future Projects & Initiatives:

- Plaque Project
- Flag Raising Ceremony
- 1911 Resolution Bylaw-to be rescinded
- Future Awareness Projects

LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

This past year provided the Portage Local Immigration Partnership (PLIP) with many challenges and triumphs over the course of the pandemic.

Challenges with connecting with partners, with newcomers, and with our own team, but also triumphs as our community came together in extraordinary ways in response. As some may know, the PLIP has previously identified five areas that were determined to be the most crucial areas of concern for newcomers settling in Portage la Prairie, however as the PLIP has grown and as our community changes and finds new ways of operating, other priorities have emerged. One of these emerging priorities is connecting different cultures with the broader community and helping the broader community see the value of these connections.



A lot of our work over the past year has been with that particular goal in mind, especially as it has become easier than ever to find oneself disconnected, not only from one's community, but perhaps even from one's own heritage. In that spirit, our Immigrant Advisory Table held a virtual holiday meal together which provided some reflection on the past year and some dreams for the future.

LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)



As part of our ongoing effort to find the most impactful barriers for newcomers in our community, the PLIP Housing Working Group and Childcare Working Group held four consultations with newcomers on the topic of housing and childcare within our community. We were able to hear from dozens of newcomers on these issues with

some surprising, and some not-so-surprising, results. These consultations led to direct action as childcare centres in Portage have adopted new intake processes which are more inclusive and welcoming to newcomer parents..

Another project the PLIP participated in over the past year was Circles for Reconciliation, in collaboration with Cornell Pashe, the Urban Indigenous Community Coordinator. Circles for Reconciliation is a ten-week course designed to bring five indigenous and five non-indigenous people together for meaningful, safe, conversations with the goal of working together towards reconciliation. The PLIP's Cultural Connector Megan Romphf is proud to act as the non-indigenous facilitator for this program with the goal of bringing people together for meaningful interactions to help build a better community understanding of reconciliation.

The PLIP has also undertaken, or served in an advisory capacity, on three research projects that have taken place (or are currently still taking place) over the past year. These are the Economic Impact study, the Transit Feasibility Study, and the Labour Market Needs Assessment. Additionally, several virtual conferences were held in the past year which were attended by both LIP staff.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Small Grants

A total of 12 organizations received funding from the Small Grants Program. Total funding provided in 2020-2021 was \$35,125.26. There were a number of projects that were seeking funding for Covid Personal Protective Equipment and Sanitizing Cleaning supplies. There were a couple of projects that were not able to receive funding as their event could not be held due to Covid Health Guideline restrictions.

Summary Information			
Breakdown of Grants(auto calculated)		Breakdown of Projects by Primary Category (auto calculated)	
# of Projects	18	Capacity_Building	5
# Approved	13	Well_Being	9
# Declined	3	Stability	2
# Withdrawn	2	Community_Connecting	1
		Economic_Development	1
Financial Impact		Participation Overview	
Funds Requested	62382.7	People Served	2943
Funds Approved	35125.26	Volunteers	173
SGF Paid Out	35125.26		
Funds Leveraged	98996.22		
Total through Small Grants and Leveraged	134121.5		

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Small Grants: Organization & Funded Projects

- Sunset Palliative Care- Communication for Palliative Care Rooms
- Portage Ukrainian Nursery School- Beautify Our Space Project
- Crescent view School- Crescent view School Playground
- Portage Friendship Centre- Igniting Hope Through Moccasins
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters- Fuse Readiness Project
- Portage Collegiate Institute - Ikwe/Wicasa Programs
- Portage la Prairie School Division- Project Transport
- Herman Prior Activity Centre- Recreational Opportunities and Program Development
- Portage Family Abuse Prevention Centre- Let's Get fit
- Family Resource Centre- FRC Christmas & FRC Covid Safety
- Portage la Prairie Regional Library- Protect our Programs from Covid 19
- Prairie Fusion Arts and Entertainment- Computer and Technology Upgrades



COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

Dining in with the Chef

The winter of 20/21 the Covid Health Restrictions were at Code Red Critical. This had a negative impact on our community members, causing loneliness, isolation and for some, food insecurity. The restrictions also caused a devastating economic impact on our local restaurants' revenues. The PCRC was successful with obtaining funding through the Safe at Home Manitoba Program to host a Dining in with the Chef Event.



The Dining in with the Chef Program provided over 275 families in Portage la Prairie with a complimentary meal, which included delivered ingredients and a free virtual cooking lesson. There were seven locally owned restaurants that participated, one restaurant one night, each week for 12 weeks. The total amount that was invested into our community for this project was \$43,270.

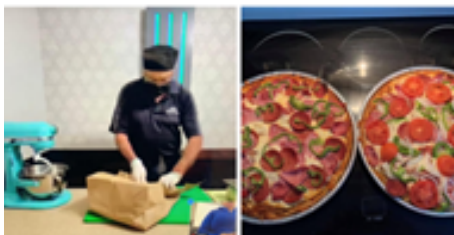
This project provided an opportunity for our community members to dine virtually with their friends, family and neighbors.



Portage Bouquets and Shout-outs

Lindsey Jordan · 23h · 🌐

Thank you to Portage Community Revitalization Corporation and Bill's Sticky Fingers for the opportunity to participate in the final evening of Dining in with the Chef. Had an amazing time and the pizzas turned out great



Safe at home MB.ca

COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

Connecting and Collaborating with Community Organizations

Emergency Soup Kitchen- Covid Health restrictions caused our local soup kitchen to put their services on temporary hold. For the summer of 2020, the PCRC, with the assistance of other organizations (Family Resource Centre), were able to organize a Temporary Emergency Soup Kitchen. In November 2020, the Community Facilitator was successful in obtaining \$12,000 funding for the Emergency Soup Kitchen from the United Way Central's Emergency Community Support Fun.

Community Food Matters- The PCRC Community Facilitator played an important role with managing the Farm Dollars Program. This program provided funds to families in Portage la Prairie who struggle with food and income security to purchase local produce. This also generated revenue for our local farmers. Total Farm Dollar Funding was \$5000.

Healthy Together Now funding was provided for seven Garden Goodie Beds to be placed in central Portage la Prairie. These Garden Goodie Beds provided fresh produce to members in our community.

Portage la Prairie Parks Committee- The Community Facilitator actively participated on the Parks Committee as Treasurer. The Community Facilitator assisted the committee with the Smile Cookie Fundraiser, in which they raised over \$8000 to go towards the Water Feature at Simplot Central Park. The Community Facilitator was successful with obtaining funding (\$75,000) from Building Sustainable Communities which was allocated to the construction of the Water Feature.



COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

PUIPC- Portage Urban Indigenous Peoples Coalition – In collaboration with the Urban Indigenous Coordinator and PUIPC, the Community Facilitator assisted with the completion and disbursement of three Indigenous Community Support Funding Proposals for Emergency Covid Relief.

Total funding obtained for Covid Emergency Relief was:

Phase	Proposal
1	83500
2	91200
3	74750
	249450

Some of the recipients of the Covid Relief ICS Funding were: ROK (Recreational Opportunities for Kids, Community Food Matters, Portage Bear Clan, CMHA, Rest a Bit/Portage Community Shelter, Harm Reduction Network, Reaching Home and Wawokiya.

The ICS Funding Covid Relief provided over 140 Urban Indigenous Families in Portage La Prairie with Fresh Food Hampers. (PPE Covid and Cleaning Supplies included) Each hamper was valued at \$225



Safe at home MB.ca

COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

Southern Health and Government of Manitoba- In March 2021, the Community Facilitator worked in collaboration with the Urban Indigenous Coordinator, Cornell Pashe, Southern Health and the Government of Manitoba to start in the planning of the Urban Indigenous Covid Vaccination Clinic.



Wawokiya and Reaching Home- In November 2020, the Community Facilitator worked with Reaching Home and Wawokiya on preparing an extensive Rapid Housing Initiative application for funding for Affordable Housing. Due to time restraints and lack of resources this application was not completed.

Fundraisers

Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) Fundraiser - PCRC's Community Facilitator assisted the Community Shelter with the First Coldest Night of the Year Fundraiser. In February 2021, almost \$50,000 was raised to support the members in our community who struggle with homelessness. Due to Covid Health Guideline restrictions the CNOY fundraiser was done virtually.



COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

Fundraisers

COOP Reusable Bag Program- Early in 2021, Homestead COOP Portage la Prairie announced that a portion of the 2021 revenue from their Reusable Bag Program will be donated to the Community Shelter (to support individuals who struggle with homelessness).



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!



COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

Community Engagement

In December 2020, the Community Facilitator hosted a virtual “Holiday Concert” through Facebook. Community Members shared songs and stories about traditions that they do during the holiday season.



In February 2021, the Community Facilitator worked along with the Portage la Prairie Local Immigration Partner (PLIP) Coordinator and Efficiency Manitoba to host and organize a virtual presentation with community members on “Energy Efficiency” in our homes.

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
- 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 United Way

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
- Family Resource Centre
- Farmer's Market
- Faurschou Ag Centre
- Federal Government of Canada
- Gen Ag
- Golden West Broadcasting
- Harm Reduction Network
- Herman Prior Centre
- Hi-Tec Industries
- Indigenous and Northern Relations
- Indigenous Support Funding
- 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 Bear Clan
- Portage Conservatory of Music
- Portage Clinic Aesthetics
- Portage Evangelical Church
- Portage Family Resource Centre
- Portage Friendship Centre
- Portage la Prairie Bear Clan

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 Centrade
- 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.