

2026 Business Storefront Improvement Grant

Application Deadline: Monday, April 13, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

The City of Portage la Prairie, in partnership with the Portage & District Chamber of Commerce, is pleased to announce the 2026 Business Storefront Improvement Grant. This annual program provides financial support for Portage la Prairie businesses in enhancing the exterior appearance of their buildings, contributing to a vibrant and welcoming Portage la Prairie.

The Business Storefront Improvement Grant is a matching grant that provides **up to 50% of eligible project costs, to a maximum municipal contribution of \$3,000 per project**, from a total fund of \$30,000. Improvements may include exterior upgrades such as façade enhancements, signage, lighting and security features, landscaping, and select public-art features. Preference will be given to businesses and organizations that hire / purchase locally where possible.

The City has a long-standing history of supporting local beautification initiatives and remains committed to helping businesses reinvest in their storefronts. This program continues that commitment by encouraging improvements that strengthen the pedestrian experience, promote accessibility and safety, and enhance the overall look and feel of our commercial corridors.

Eligible businesses located along **Saskatchewan Avenue (including two blocks north and south)** and **Provincial Highway 240 within city limits** are encouraged to apply. Full program details, including eligibility requirements and application instructions, are provided on the following page.

We look forward to supporting your improvement project and to seeing continued investment in our community's commercial spaces.

Sincerely,

Portage & District Chamber
Stefanie Dunn, Executive Director
Phone: 857-7778
info@portagedistrictchamber.com

City of Portage la Prairie
Kathy McGregor, Communications Coordinator
Phone: 239-8334
kmcgregor@city-plap.com

An Initiative of:



2026 Business Storefront Improvement Grant Program Notice!

GRANTS AVAILABLE

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for the Business Storefront Improvement Grant, applicants must be a small business, non-profit community organization, or cooperative located in a public area along Saskatchewan Avenue, and two blocks north and south of Saskatchewan Avenue, or on Provincial Highway 240 within city limits.

Funding Details

- The City will reimburse **50% of the total eligible project costs, up to a maximum of \$3,000**. The applicant will make up the balance of eligible costs in cash. In-kind costs are not eligible.
- **Two quotes** are required; funding is based on 50% of the lowest quotation. If the final project cost is lower than the quote, reimbursement is based on the actual cost (up to 50%). If the final cost exceeds the original quote, reimbursement remains based on 50% of the lowest quote, up to the \$3,000 maximum.
- Eligible costs are reimbursed **after the project is 100% complete** and all documentation is submitted.

Eligible project types include:

Exterior building upgrades (façade improvements, doors, windows, etc.), lighting and safety features, signage upgrades, landscaping, select public-art elements (murals, banners, sculptures) that support community identity, cultural or heritage themes, or tourism appeal.

Additional Information:

Work cannot begin until the applicant receives written approval, and all projects must comply with applicable legal requirements, including bylaws, permits, and building codes. Preference may be given to those who hire local contractors or purchase materials locally whenever possible.

Applicants are required to provide before-and-after photos of the completed work.

To qualify, each project must address at least one of the program's primary design goals, which include creating strong connections to the pedestrian realm, contributing to public safety, encouraging accessibility, and incorporating innovative or fun features.

Key Dates

- **Application Deadline:** Monday, April 13, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
- **Notification of Approval:** By April 17, 2026
- **Project Completion Deadline:** December 4, 2026

How to Apply

1. Review the eligibility and project requirements.
2. Obtain at least two quotes from suppliers or contractors.
3. Complete the full application form and submit it to the Portage & District Chamber of Commerce or City of Portage la Prairie.
4. Wait for written approval before beginning any work.
5. Once the project is fully complete, submit proof of payment, before & after photos and final documentation for reimbursement.

Application Form 2026 Building Storefront Improvement Program Application

Legal Name of Applicant:		
Mailing Address:		
Phone:	Fax:	e-mail:
Contact Name:		Phone:
Project Title:	Project Location:	
Project Start Date:	Completion Date:	
Community Partners:		

Project description and how it will enhance the community

How does your project support the 4 project goals?

(if space is insufficient, please attach additional pages.)

Source of Funds	Amount (\$\$)	Project Costs	Amount (\$\$)
Applicant		Material / Supplies	
Community Partner(s)		Equipment Rentals	
Other		Development / Bldg Permit	
City of Portage la Prairie (50% to a max of \$3,000)		Utility Hookup	
		Building / Structure	
		Upgrades	
		Contractor Trade Fees	
		Public Art / Landscaping	
Total A		Total B	

** total A and total B must balance*

Please complete and forward to the Portage & District Chamber of Commerce at info@portagedistrictchamber.com OR City Hall at 97 Saskatchewan Ave E or kmcgregor@city-plap.com.

Authorized Signature

Date