



City of Prince Albert

RPT 2024-258

TITLE: Prince Albert Historical Society Funding and 2009 Memorandum of Agreement

DATE: September 11, 2024

TO: Executive Committee

PUBLIC: X

INCAMERA:

RECOMMENDATION:

That RPT 2024-258 be received as information and filed.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Prince Albert Historical Society has requested a review of the 2009 Memorandum of Agreement between the Prince Albert Historical Society and The City of Prince Albert. In particular, the Prince Albert Historical Society wants to ensure the full costs of the Curator/Manager (wages, benefits, and associated employer costs) and the grant for annual operations, meet clauses 8.6 and 8.10 in the Memorandum of Agreement.

The Prince Albert Historical Society and representatives of the City will meet in 2024 and 2025 to review the Memorandum of Agreement and make recommendations for the 2026 budget year, and to sustain current operations and consider growth opportunities for future years.

BACKGROUND:

The Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Prince Albert and the Prince Albert Historical Society was approved by City Council on April 6, 2009. The intent of the agreement was to formally document the relationship with respect to the function and operation of museum and heritage programming, and through the support of volunteers, dating back to 1976. The City recognizes the value and diversity this programming provides to the City and its culture. The Memorandum of Agreement serves to solidify the historical partnership and ensure the preservation and growth of museum and heritage programming in Prince Albert into the future. There are four museums owned by The City and operated by the Prince Albert Historical Society. They include the Prince Albert Historical Museum, the Prince Albert Evolution of Education

Museum, the Rotary Museum of Police and Corrections, and the John and Olive Diefenbaker Museum.

A letter from Michael Gange, Vice President of the Prince Albert Historical Society dated January 16, 2024 requested that the City review the 2009 Memorandum of Agreement including a thorough assessment of the funding structure to ensure the agreement is being met, in particular sections 8.6 and 8.10 (page 5 of the attached Memorandum of Agreement):

8. The city shall each year during which the Society is operating Museums, continue to provide the following:

6) The cost and administration for reimbursing on a monthly basis the Society for the services and vehicle allowance for a Museums Manager.

10) The City shall pay a reasonable grant each year to the Society in support of its annual budget.

The City provides an annual external agency grant to the Prince Albert Historical Society, as well as an annual budget through the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department to cover the summer staff, operations, and general maintenance of the museums. In addition, some years there is a budget for capital maintenance items.

In the initial years of the Memorandum of Agreement, the increase to the Curator/Manager portion of the grant was tied to City of Prince Albert increases for out-of-scope employees. The Prince Albert Historical Society operations rely heavily on volunteers.

The Prince Albert Historical Society currently has three permanent staff – the Curator/Manager (full time), Finance Coordinator (part time) and Programming & Outreach Coordinator (part time). Twelve Museum Interpreters and summer students are hired each year.

PROPOSED APPROACH AND RATIONALE:

The attached funding document outlines the financial support budgeted each year since the start of the Memorandum of Agreement in 2009.

The Prince Albert Historical Society is requesting that the total costs of the Curator/Manager are covered by the City as per the Memorandum of Agreement. They are also requesting that the operating grant is increased to at least include inflation each year. This operating portion of the grant has remained the same since 2013.

Annual Grant to PA Historical Society from COPA	2024 Budget approved from COPA	2024 Estimated Budget from PA Historical Society	Difference
Curator/Manager (MOA 8.6)	\$60,770	\$74,006	\$13,236
Operating Grant (MOA 8.10)	\$10,310	\$21,994	\$11,684
Totals	\$71,080	\$96,000	\$24,920

The 2024 City of Prince Albert budget also provided the Prince Albert Historical Society for Summer Staff (\$171,440) and operational maintenance (\$55,410) in the amount of \$226,850 bringing the total budgeted City of Prince Albert funding support to the Prince Albert Historical Society operations for 2024 to **\$297,930**. Please note that these totals do not include annual capital budgets that support the museums.

The Prince Albert Historical Society has had significant growth since the Memorandum of Agreement was signed back in 2009. Volunteer support continues to be fundamental to their operations and is highly successful, despite the statistics of an aging volunteer population. The Prince Albert Historical Society has also evolved their staffing model to provide new ways of sharing the City and area's history and reaching various populations in our city.

Examples of this growth in the last three years include:

- Work with the Indigenous community
The Prince Albert Historical Society has worked to create relationships with Knowledge Keepers in the Prince Albert area to ensure that we tell the whole history of Prince Albert, as seen in The Gathering Place exhibit. The Knowledge Keepers (and their ideas) then went to help the City with the Indigenous Naming Initiative, signs and tables at Little Red River Park, and the interpretive signs along the Rotary Trail.
- Renovations
Since 2017, the Prince Albert Historical Society has undertaken renovations in the Historical Museum to ensure that the building and its displays and programming stay relevant and modern. This includes renovations to the offices, meeting room and kitchen, the Gathering Place exhibit, and the main display area, all on the main floor. In the basement, they have levelled the archive floor. Since 2017, the Prince Albert Historical Society has spent over \$50,000 to maintain and renovate the building.
- Creation of an Endowment Fund
In 2022, the Prince Albert Historical Society started an endowment fund to support the operations for the future. Currently they are growing the fund with the goal to draw from it in future years.

- Education
Over the last few years, due to the now named Programming and Outreach Coordinator, their programs both public and school aged have increased awareness of the Prince Albert Historical Society within the community. Their programs both in and out of the museums promote various aspects of Prince Albert's history. They have seen tremendous growth in social media presence, focusing on archival information and photographs engaging people near and far about our City.

To provide these programs and opportunities, the Prince Albert Historical Society has achieved a significant amount of self generated revenue such as:

- Canadian Heritage
- PA and Area Community Foundation
- SaskCulture
- Sask Council for Archives & Archivists
- Museums Association of Saskatchewan
- Northern Lights Community Development Corporation
- Young Canada Works
- Gift store

In 2025, the current 2009 Memorandum of Agreement will be reviewed with the Prince Albert Historical Society as part of the annual work plan for the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department. Any recommended changes will be brought forward to City Council for approval. Any approved changes will be considered in the 2026 budget deliberations.

CONSULTATIONS:

Mayor Dionne, Jody Boulet, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture and Judy MacLeod Campbell, Arts & Culture Manager have met with Michael Gange and Michelle Taylor on behalf of the Prince Albert Historical Society to understand the future needs of the organization.

The Financial Services Department was also consulted with regards to historical funding provided to the Prince Albert Historical Society (document attached).

The Facilities Division of Parks, Recreation & Culture has met with the Prince Albert Historical Society to be included in the five-year facility review.

COMMUNICATION AND/OR ANNOUNCEMENT PLAN:

Starting in 2024 and into 2025, the City will meet with the Historical Society to review the Memorandum of Agreement, determine next steps, and consider future Prince Albert Historical Society external agency funding requests.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The budget implications would come into effect in 2026.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS/IMPLICATIONS:

There are no policy, privacy, legal, safety or environmental implications.

OPTIONS TO RECOMMENDATION:

There are no other options to the recommendation.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This project aligns with the strategic priority of “Promoting a Progressive Community” and the Culture Action Plan area of focus. In particular, to identify opportunities to remember, honour, and celebrate Prince Albert heritage and history.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN:

The Municipal Cultural Action Plan forms an important part of the Official Community Plan. The Prince Albert Historical Society is represented as part of the Municipal Culture Action Plan Working Group. Section 13 of the Official Community Plan speaks to Prince Albert’s culture and identifies a number of goals and policies to support this initiative.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Public Notice pursuant to the Public Notice Bylaw No. 24 of 2015 is not required.

PRESENTATION:

Verbal by Judy MacLeod Campbell, Arts & Culture Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Correspondence dated January 16, 2024 – Prince Albert Historical Society
2. Prince Albert Historical Society and COPA Memorandum of Agreement
3. 2024 COPA Prince Albert Historical Society Budget Detail
4. Copy of Prince Albert Historical Society Budget and Requests

Written by: Judy MacLeod Campbell, Arts & Culture Manager

Approved by: Director of Financial Services, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture & City Manager