



Pilot Program with the Community Foundation of Portage & District

Background

A recently completed Endow Manitoba research project, in partnership with the Rural Development Institute (RDI) at Brandon University, explored the opportunities and challenges of community engagement, research, and convening to enhance the impact of community foundation (CF) activities (with considerable emphasis on the granting component). Endow Manitoba now seeks CF partners to apply the research models as “proof” of the findings (and ultimately; to improve the impact those CFs have in their community).

Proposal

Given past discussions with Community Foundation of Portage & District (CFPD) leadership, we believe that there is an opportunity to align the application of our research with CFPD’s strategic priorities.

Process

Over the next eight (8) months, the staff and board of the CFPD will explore and review three (3) stages of development that support the application of the research model.

The stages of development are:

1. Defining community leadership (values) and community wellbeing (measures).
2. Planning for inclusive and intentional community engagement/convening to generate meaningful community knowledge.
3. Implementation of that community engagement/convening plan and use of the corresponding generated knowledge to support CF priorities.

To support each stage, CFPD will be provided with a one-to-two-page memo providing context and posing three critical questions for the staff and board to explore. To ensure that this process is successful, Endow Manitoba requires commitment from CFPD to:

- Dedicate time during three (3) board meetings to reflect upon and discuss the content and questions related to the research model (to be provided);
- Provide feedback to Endow Manitoba staff relating to the research model and its correlating three (3) stages of development.

Outcomes

Through this process, CFPD will have had the opportunity to:

- Critically reflect on its current community engagement and research practices,
- Engage in meaningful conversations that will build upon and enhance current convening and research practices,
- Review exemplary practices gleaned from regional, national, and international research,
- Contribute to building the capacity of the MB CF network in engaging in these activities.

Collaboration in this pilot program will demonstrate CFPD’s leadership in the MB CF movement and support Endow Manitoba to better understand and share these findings with the broader network.