



HART PIONEER CENTRE ASSOCIATION

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January 21, 2026

Corporate Officer,
City Hall – 5th Floor,
1100 Patricia Blvd;
Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

RE: Submission to the proposed 2026-2030 Financial & Capital Plans (Budget)

Please find enclosed a submission for financial assistance for the Hart Pioneer Centre in regards to the budget meetings scheduled for Monday, January 26th & Wednesday, January 28th, 2026 – Council Chambers of City Hall, 2nd Floor.

This **submission** will be **4 parts**:

1. Senior Centre – General information regarding all Senior Centres in PG.
2. History of the Hart Pioneer Centre.
3. Request for financial assistance for fiscal year 2026 for the Hart Pioneer Centre.
4. City of PG Support in 2025 for Prince George Senior Centres.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Yours truly,
Hart Pioneer Center Directors & Members

Cc: Mayor & Councillors

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City of Prince George

PART 1 – SUBMISSION – General information regarding Senior Centres in Prince George.

All senior centres face the same concerns - after COVID there has been a decline in membership throughout Prince George as well as a decline in volunteers.

All senior centres have seen a rising cost in utilities (water / sewer / hydro / gas) including the cost of food plus the wages for paid employees.

Senior centres must be cost efficient in order to survive as they cannot depend on grants or donations etc. For many seniors, centres are their only interaction with other seniors. It is a place to have a coffee, chat and take part in a variety of activities. Senior centres provide wholesome, nutritious meals at an affordable cost for many seniors.

Part 2- SUBMISSION – History (brief) of the Hart Pioneer Centre

In 1972, a group of Seniors in the Hart Community started meeting in the library of Austin Road Elementary. It was getting too small to accommodate the members so they moved to the basement of Eagles Hall. But in the basement of Eagles Hall - either you cooked or you froze and it wasn't efficient for the variety of functions. With fund-raising, donations etc. the Hart Seniors' dream of their own building became reality in June 1983 - a fifty-eight hundred square foot structure sitting on a small portion of a two and one quarter acre site. The members of the Hart Pioneer Centre became owners of this building. An addition was completed in 1990 - the sunroom and the back of the building.

The Hart Pioneer Centre is open Monday-Friday 9am – 3pm and offers a variety of activities. It provides nutritious meals to all seniors at a very reasonable cost. The Hart Pioneer Centre has a Meals on Wheels program which is offered to residents of the Hart area. Hart Pioneer Centre is available to not only Hart residents but to everyone in Prince George. The members are responsible for all upkeep for the building. It means having functions, catering, meals etc. to pay for everything. Volunteers keep this Centre going. In 2025 - 11,502 recorded hours of volunteering by the Members.

Owning the building can be hindrance. Why? It seems that every time a request is made to the City Council in the past for financial assistance: snow removal, kitchen upgrade, lift (elevator), gardening, kitchen cupboards, non-capital maintenance etc. the response is always the same – You, the members, own the building.

Part 3 - SUBMISSION – Request for financial assistance (funding) for the fiscal year 2026 for the Hart Pioneer Centre.

In your deliberations for funding for the upcoming fiscal year (2026) please consider the following options for the Hart Pioneer Centre:

1. Snow Removal – 2025 - \$3100.00.
2026 - \$1010.00 (* The parking lot is not cleared every time it snows).
2. Lot sweeping – The Centre did not do lot sweeping of the sand as the estimated cost in 2025 was approx. \$750.00 Members volunteered with leaf blowers and brooms and partially swept the lot.
3. Re - Paving the front parking lot – pavement is breaking down.
Two estimates were received - \$6500 for partial and \$26,000 for the front parking lot. It did not include line painting.
4. Building Insurance – Insurance continues to increase yearly - 2025 - \$8000.
There is a projected increase in 2026. It is mandatory and very important to have the proper insurance for the building.
5. Furnace repair – 2025 - \$4000.
6. Gardening and yard upkeep – Performed by volunteers.
7. Non-capital maintenance – Routine expenses for keeping assets in good working order.
8. ** Installation of a lift (elevator) – this would enable many Members to utilize the basement more frequently versus going down 15 steps.
9. ** Kitchen upgrade – the installation of new floor tiles – the present ones are starting to break – estimated quote \$15,000.
10. Any financial assistance for the above would be extremely helpful in the upkeep and maintenance of the Hart Pioneer Centre and its surroundings.

Part 4 - Submission - City of PG Support in 2025 for Prince George Senior Centres

1. PG & District Activity Centre – 4th & Brunswick
 - \$18,790 PTE
 - \$8,800 in operations support (parking lot maintenance, snow removal etc.)
 - \$1,000 low cost lease (less than \$100 per month)
 - \$8, 800 in non-capital maintenance
 - \$17, 648 in grants
 - Plus about \$250,000 in recent capital upgrades (building envelope, HVAC)
 - **Installation of a lift – (elevator) \$ 90,000 prior to COVID

2. Elder Citizens Recreation Association (ECRA)
 - \$21,878 PTE
 - \$21,789 in operations support
 - \$1,00 low-cost lease (less than \$100 per month)
 - \$ 7, 600 in non-capital maintenance
 - **Redesign the kitchen - \$150,000 – prior to COVID
 - ** Installation of a lift (elevator) \$80,000 – prior to COVID

3. Spruce Capital Seniors Centre
 - Lease from Northern Health
 - \$3,500 in grants

4. Hart Pioneer Centre
 - \$14,519 PTE
 - \$1,900 in grants

5. North Central Seniors Association
 - \$ 1,600 in grants

6. PG Council of Seniors
 - \$ 30,000 in grants

- Total –
 - \$55,187 in PTES
 - \$54,648 in grants
 - \$ 30,589 in operation support
 - \$ 16,400 non-capital maintenance

There is a variation in the support that each centre receives from the City of Prince George, but it is the taxpayers of Prince George who cover the cost of the above.