

January 22, 2026

Re: Request for Funding – Graffiti Removal Program (\$10,000)

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the Downtown Prince George Business Improvement Association (DPG) and in partnership with the Prince George Activator Society (PGAS), I am writing to request \$10,000 in funding to revive the Graffiti Removal Program in downtown Prince George this spring. This program will directly enhance the appearance and safety of our downtown core while providing meaningful employment and rehabilitation opportunities for individuals on conditional release, with a focus on Indigenous participants.

PGAS, a non-profit organization working in partnership with Correctional Service Canada, has a long history of supporting the successful reintegration of high-risk individuals through employment and community engagement. The Graffiti Removal Program—originally part of the GroundWorks PG initiative—proved highly effective at cleaning up public spaces and giving back to the community.

Under the proposed pilot program, PGAS will provide supervision for a crew of two residents working once a week over five months, and DPG will contribute in-kind support through program administration and coordination with downtown businesses and the City. The funding request of \$10,000 covers wages, materials, and transportation for the participants. PGAS will also provide additional in-kind support through staff supervision, ensuring the program runs smoothly and safely.

This initiative provides multiple benefits to our community:

- Cleaner, safer, and more welcoming public spaces for residents, businesses, and visitors.
- Employment and skill-building opportunities for individuals reintegrating into the community.
- Strengthened partnerships between the City, Downtown Prince George, and PGAS.

We respectfully ask for Council’s support in funding this program, which aligns with public safety priorities, downtown revitalization efforts, and community engagement goals. A detailed program proposal is attached for your review, and we would be happy to provide any additional information or answer questions as needed.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Chrisie Berry

Executive Director - Downtown Prince George
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PROPOSAL

to

Downtown Prince George

Re: Groundwork PG and Graffiti removal



Prepared by:

Dave Trepanier

Executive Director

Prince George Activator Society

January 8, 2026

BACKGROUND

The Prince George Activator Society is a non-profit society and is governed by a Board of Directors. The Prince George Activator Society operates two distinct facilities: the Activators CRF, which is a 27 bed residence situated in downtown Prince George, and Aghelh Nebun CRF, which is an 18 bed facility located 90 kms southeast of the city. The PGAS partners with Correctional Service Canada to manage our programs and services. CSC's mission is to contribute to public safety by actively encouraging and assisting offenders to become law-abiding citizens, while exercising reasonable, safe, secure, and humane control in its institutions and effective supervision and interventions while they are under conditional release in the community. Activators CRF and Aghelh Nebun CRF contribute to this mission and to public safety in general by providing programs and services to conditionally released offenders, including work releases, focused primarily on indigenous offenders.

In September 2013, Prince George Activator Society was granted funding through CSC to implement an employment creation and sustainability program employing and mentoring offenders designated as "High Risk" by Correctional Service Canada. This program was known as "GroundWork PG". GroundWork PG was a program designed to give back to the local community while providing viable employment opportunities for men transitioning back into the community. The program had two primary and complementary objectives. The first was to assist in the management of high risk offenders by providing viable, paid employment for a period of six months or longer for each participant. The second objective was to "give back" to the local community through the services provided by the GroundWork PG program. These two objectives directly related to CSC's Corporate Priorities. Specifically they addressed the following key areas:

- Enhancement of Offender Accountability
- Improve Employment and Employability of Offenders.
- Enhance Relationships with Partners.

Stable employment is perhaps the single most contributing factor for successful reintegration. This is true for the general offender population but even more important for those offenders deemed "High Risk". In partnership with Downtown Prince George and the city of Prince George, a Graffiti Removal Program was implemented as part of GroundWork PG. This program was effective in its goals but was terminated over 6 years ago due to funding and need.

MOVING FORWARD

Due to ongoing issues related to the unhoused population of downtown Prince George, there appears to be a need for a revival of the Graffiti removal program. The Prince George Activator Society has the capability to partner with Downtown Prince George on such an initiative.

DWPG/PGAS Graffiti Removal Partnership - Budget and Timeline

This partnership has three components:

- 1) Labour and Wages
 - 2) Material Costs
 - 3) Operations and Approvals
- 1) Labour and Wages – we would identify a 3 person crew to work on the graffiti program. This would entail one of my own staff for supervision and 2 residents on conditional release to perform the labour under supervision of the staff member. We could commit to performing this work once a week through the spring and summer months. We would be seeking funding from DWPG for the wages of the two residents and would commit to covering our own staff wage for the project. The two residents being offered the part time employment would work once a week for an 8 hour day. Two residents working 8 hours a day at 4 days a month would appear to be a viable plan. (wages would be \$20 an hour which is minimum wage plus admin costs) **The overall estimated cost of wages for the 2 residents per month is estimated at \$1280.00. We would estimate the program to run for 5 months as a pilot this spring 2026 which would take the wage costs to \$6400.00. Wages for our own staff member would be the responsibility of PGAS and the in kind commitment for this is \$4800.00.**
 - 2) Material Costs – material cost such as paint, paint supplies, cleaning supplies and work gear would be the financial responsibility of the program. This is estimated at approximately \$500 a month. Total cost for this over a 5 month period would be approximately \$2500. Transportation would be provided by the PG Activator Society and we would bill for mileage at federal govt rates.
 - 3) Operations and Approvals – operation of the program would be facilitated by DWPG. These logistics were effective and agreed upon between DWPG and PGAS during the previous program and we could follow those same protocols. Approvals from businesses and the city of PG were sought prior to any work being started. Once approvals were obtained by DWPG, these were forwarded to our staff for implementation and follow up.

FUNDING REQUEST

We are happy to have the opportunity to submit this proposal for financial support. As a review, wages and material costs estimates would total \$8900.00 for a 5 month period. There would still be travel cost associated with the work which would estimated to be \$1000.00. This would bring the total ask to be \$10,000.00 to run the program. This project is an opportunity to rebuild partnerships between the city and Downtown PG as well as address a need area in the downtown core. It will also foster the rehabilitation and economic opportunity for the residents of our facility on conditional release, with a focus on those from Indigenous backgrounds.