



Organization Information

Name of Organization: Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin	
Mailing Address (office): 1660 B Broadway Ave S Williams Lake, BC V2G2W4	
Phone # (office): 250-392-7404	E-Mail (office): mccinfomain@gmail.com
Purpose of Organization: The purpose of the Society is to:-Establish and operate a museum and archives in keeping with good conservation and display practices for the presentation of artifacts and archival materials representing Williams Lake and area;Promote and encourage research, writing and recording of histories of the Cariboo Chilcotin area;Encourage and cooperate in the education of our children regarding their heritage and culture;Support, encourage and facilitate the collection conservation, maintenance and restoration of heritage property and sites in the Cariboo Chilcotin.Support research requests across Canada.	
BC Society or Charitable Registration Number (required for requests over \$500): 11929 8561 RP0001	
Primary Contact (name and title): Amber Nehring	
Phone #: [REDACTED]	E-Mail: [REDACTED]
Secondary Contact (name and title): Tanvi Walia	
Phone #: [REDACTED]	E-Mail: [REDACTED]

Who does your organization serve? (i.e. residents from City, CRD, province)

Our organization serves the population of Williams Lake, the Cariboo and Chilcotin. As a tourist attraction we also serve the community at large through bus tours from around Canada. As a research facility we also process research requests from across Canada and occasionally internationally. We facilitate tours with school district 27 and daycare centers.

Does your organization receive any other supports from the City or CRD? (i.e. Fee for Service or other financial support, rental subsidies, contribution agreements, tax exemptions, use of government-owned facilities, property leases). If yes, what supports and amounts?

The Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin is housed in the Tourism Discovery Centre which is a City of Williams Lake owned facility.

The Society and Cowboy Hall of Fame receive two fee for service amounts:-

\$24,000 City of Williams Lake

\$30,000 CCAS via CRD



How will you indicate that the City or CRD is contributing to your organization?

Promotional materials for the upcoming event will be featured in all the social media and print channels of the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin. The city logo will be featured in all promotional materials through out the year at each event and also in our monthly newsletters.

Current Year Grant Request

Current Grant Request: \$5,000

Previous Year Grant from City (if applicable): \$2,000

Previous Year Grant Project Description (if applicable):

BC Historical federation Conference. Final report added for reference

Previous Year Grant from CRD (if applicable): \$3,000

Previous Year Grant Project Description (if applicable):

BC Historical federation Conference. Final report added for reference

**NOTE: A final report for your last grant MUST be included with this submission.*

Current Year Grant Project / Event / Expenditure Summary

Please answer the following questions, using additional paper if necessary.

Applications must fall within one of the following funding categories (select one):

- Capital Expenditure** – equipment purchase, construction, repair or upgrade of facilities; or
- Special Event** – seed funding for new events or funding of an ongoing event; or
- Special Project** – funding for a special project, program or activity; or
- Event / Tournament / Conference Hosting** – hosting an event, tournament or conference that will have economic benefits for the community.

Brief description of proposed use of grant being applied for:

The BC Cowboy Hall of Fame through the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin host 3 possibly 4 events per year. The Induction of the annual Award Winners of the Cowboy Hall of Fame in the Spring each year; the Ol' Cowboy's Gathering during annual Stampede weekends - that brings together the Old Friends and Family in a safe and relaxing environment to enjoy some food, music and fellowship - without having to attend a funeral to do so and the third event is the Cowboys Christmas Market and evenings of entertainment - this is held over two days and is a focused market - Western Culture goods and art are sold and western music and poetry and showcased. All of these events are very successful and have received recognition provincial, national and international recognition. Specifically we are seeking funding for:

BC Cowboy Hall Of Fame will be hosting two days Cowboy Christmas market dedicated to showcase the rich heritage and craftsmanship of the region, tailored specifically for the cowboys. The event will feature a curated showcase of western inspired gear, artisanal crafts, and traditional clothing with distinctive local flair. This unique gathering offers participants an engaging platform to connect, share their appreciation for regional artistry, and highlight their individual styles rooted in tradition yet influenced by modern trends.

Start date: November 28th, 2026

End date: November 29th, 2026

How does this projects, activity or event strengthen and enhance the well-being of the community, promote volunteerism and support the goals and [strategic priorities of the City of Williams Lake](#)?

The Cowboy Christmas Market presents a unique opportunity to enhance the well-being of the community by fostering cultural pride, economic growth, and social connectivity. This event not only celebrates the region's rich heritage and craftsmanship but also provides a platform for local artisans, crafter, and vendors to showcase their work, thereby supporting small businesses and promoting local economic development. By bringing together individuals with shared values and a deep appreciation for western traditions, the market cultivates a sense of belonging and unity among participants. Additionally, the event creates a safe, welcoming space for social interaction and the strengthening of relationships within the community. As a culturally significant gathering, it enriches the lives of attendees by offering opportunities to engage with and preserve the traditions that define the region, while also embracing the evolving influence of modern trends.

Describe the key activities and timelines to complete the project/event.

- 1. Nominations for Induction to the HALL OF FAME take place from Oct 1 to Dec 31 - the Announcements of the new Inductees are held in conjunction with the Spring Rodeo before an audience of 1100 - the day includes a brunch, and introduction, photos and news stories locally, regional and nationally.*
 - 2. The Ol' Cowboys Gathering was the first year in 2025 and the response was so favorable that we anticipate it to grow by 2 or 3 times in 2026.*
 - 3. The Cowboy Christmas Market has expanded in 2025 to 2 days from one and will include a fundraising events the evening before the whole day market on the second day.*
-

How will you determine if the project/event was successful?

Sold out tickets to the events, successful vendors (the 2024 Market Vendors shared that the shows was the most successful of the year), great sharing on social media and throughout the region. The 2025 Christmas Market has expand by 3 times the number of vendors from the 2024 Market.



Another sign of success is the partnerships that we have developed over this past year - working with the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association and Destination British Columbia - the museum has hosted Familization Tours of International Journalists and International Tour Operators and being asked to present at the launch at the new International Branding campaign - Natures Heartland before groups of up to 95 journalists. At these events we share many of the attributes of the City of Williams Lake and the Region.

Is your agency is applying for funds from other levels of government, or other sources, for this project / event / expenditure? If yes, list sources and amounts.

No

Would you still be able to complete the project if you do not receive the other funds applied for?

Yes, we are a small but very resilient Board of Directors who succeed at every task we take on. The years of experience and desire to keep the Museum not only open but a functioning and highly profiled part of the Williams Lake community and of the Cariboo Chilcotin is something we are extremely proud to be a part of.

Describe the impact of this application being denied or approval of an amount less than requested. Will you be able to complete the project/event if you do not receive the funding requested?

The Museum operates on a disturbing low budget that is occasionally supplemented by the Board members themselves to see that success is achieved. We operate year round and employ 1.5 people year round in contrast to 3 or 4 day events that operate on 5 times the budget others work with. The Board has taken a failed experience to a highly successful, productive part of the community. The number of volunteers has grown - which in todays environment is a true reflection of how much the community believes in the work the museum staff and Board are doing.

The event will still go ahead if we do not receive this grant. Some of the activities will have to be adapted to accommodate a smaller budget. which may impact future tourism in terms of vendors participation for events.

Provide a draft budget for the project (to be submitted with completed application).



THE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Tanvi Walia Digitally signed by Tanvi Walia
Date: 2025.09.29 10:10:56
-07'00'

Authorized Representative

Privacy Acknowledgement:

The collection of personal information is authorized under section 26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA).

This information will only be used for the purpose of the Community Grants Program and may be included on a public Council Meeting agenda. Questions about the collection of this information can be directed to: Corporate Officer, 450 Mart Street, BC, V2G 1N3, 250-392-2311, corporateservices@williamslake.ca.

Summary

The BC Cowboy Hall of Fame through the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin host 3 possibly 4 events per year. The Induction of the annual Award Winners of the Cowboy Hall of Fame in the Spring each year; the Ol' Cowboy's Gathering during annual Stampede weekends - that brings together the Old Friends and Family in a safe and relaxing environment to enjoy some food, music and fellowship - without having to attend a funeral to do so and the third event is the Cowboys Christmas Market and evenings of entertainment - this is held over two days and is a focused market - Western Culture goods and art are sold and western music and poetry and showcased. All of these events are very successful and have received recognition provincial, national and international recognition. Specifically, we are seeking funding for:

BC Cowboy Hall of Fame will be hosting two days Cowboy Christmas market dedicated to showcase the rich heritage and craftsmanship of the region, tailored specifically for the cowboys. The event will feature a curated showcase of western inspired gear, artisanal crafts, and traditional clothing with distinctive local flair. This unique gathering offers participants an engaging platform to connect, share their appreciation for regional artistry, and highlight their individual styles rooted in tradition yet influenced by modern trends.

The Museum has successfully hosted this event in the past, with it being one of the most attended events offered by the Museum. . In addition, potential vendors have already started reaching out to staff to enquire about whether or not an event will be held this year.

The proposed budget outlines a total expenditure of \$7,000 to support the successful execution of the Community Grant project. Key expense categories include \$1,000 each for event advertising, a portion of the venue rental, and administrative support to ensure effective coordination and communication. An allocation of \$2,000 is designated for providing tea and coffee to vendors, fostering a welcoming and supportive environment during the event. Additionally, \$2,000 is accounted for as in-kind volunteer contributions, reflecting the community's active engagement and support for the initiative.

Community Grants Program

Revenue

Community Grants Program	\$	5,000
In Kind Tour Volunteers	\$	1,000
In-Kind Workshop demonstrations	\$	1,000

Notes: volunteers @\$20ph

Total Revenue \$ **7,000**

Expenses

Event Advertising	\$	1,000
Portion of Venue rental	\$	1,000
Administrative support	\$	1,000
Tea/Coffee for vendors	\$	2,000
In-Kind Volunteer	\$	2,000

Notes: radio, newspaper, social media directly related to conference

Notes: 40 volunteers @\$20/hr

Total Expenses \$ **7,000**

FUNDING REPORT – BC HISTORICAL FEDERATION CONFERENCE 2025

CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE

The 2025 Conference Committee prioritized three main focus areas.

1. **Showcasing local history and heritage** – it was important to the host organization as well as the BCHF to showcase the unique, diverse, and complex history and heritage of the Cariboo-Chilcotin area, while highlighting and empowering the local organizations doing this work. First Nations in the area were asked how they wanted to participate, which was reflected in the conference presentations and field trip. A national leader in reconciliation, Phyllis Webstad, founder of the Orange Shirt Society, was invited as a keynote speaker, while presentations about ranching, nursing, and early life in the Cariboo rounded out the program. The conference material was at times heavy and difficult, as delegates learned more about the St. Joseph's Mission Indian Residential School, had an opportunity to visit and hear firsthand experiences. The host organization was very welcoming, attentive to details, and knowledgeable about local history, which made a successful conference possible.
2. **Capacity building** – with a small organizing committee, it was important that the conference was able to be managed by volunteers – both those of the BCHF as well as the Museum. Venues located close to accommodations were necessary, and offering a simple but varied program was important as concurrent sessions were not possible. Dividing tasks between the Museum and the BCHF was important to help facilitate volunteer management. The conference was a way that both the BCHF and the Museum could build capacity in event planning and delivery.
3. **Deepening relationships** – As in past conferences, the 2026 conference strove to maintain an intimate and personal feel, true to its values. Allowing time for people to connect with one another and socialize in a relaxed atmosphere, while also listening, learning, and celebrating achievements, was important. As a relationship between the BCHF and the Museum was initiated and strengthened, relationships between delegates, the City of Williams Lake, Williams Lake First Nation, Tsilhqot'in National Government, the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin and BC Cowboy Hall of Fame, Central Cariboo Arts Council, Cariboo Regional district, local businesses and volunteers were initiated or enhanced.

The conference was well attended by organizations and cities across British Columbia: -

Attendees came from the following communities:

• 150 Mile Ranch • Burnaby • Chilliwack • Delta • Fort Langley • Gibsons • Golden • Haida Gwaii • Harrison Mills • Kamloops • Lac La Hache • Langley • Nanaimo • New Westminster • Qualicum Beach • Smithers • Sudbury, ON • Trail • Vancouver • Vernon • Victoria • Williams Lake

The organizations represented (in-person and virtual) included:

• Agassiz-Harrison Historical Society • Alder Grove Heritage Society • BC Historical Federation • BC History of Nursing Society • Boundary Historical Society • Bulkley Valley Museum • Cariboo Regional District Heritage Steering Committee • Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society • Chinese Canadian Museum • City of Burnaby • City of New Denver • City of Williams Lake • Department of Canadian Heritage • Douglas College • Golden & District Historical Society 6 • Heritage Abbotsford Society • Johnson Belair Direct Insurance • Kilby Museum • Laurentian University • Mole Hill Community Housing Association • Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin and the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame • Paper Trail Publishing • Provincial Archives of BC • Raven Calling Productions • Revelstoke Museum • Royal British Columbia Museum • Secwepemc Museum and Heritage Park • Slocan Valley Historical Society • Société historique francophone de la Colombie-Britannique • Tsilhqot'in National Government • University of the Fraser Valley • VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association • Victoria Historical Society • West Coast Ringette Historical Society • Williams Lake Community Forest • Williams Lake First Nation

The conference took place over a four-day period with attendees enjoying a varied and interesting agenda. We have attached a detailed document setting out activities for the duration of the conference.

We have attached a snapshot of the conference in photographs as they are wonderful representations of participants, venues and activities.

A survey of feedback at the conference was conducted to assess the experience of delegates and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Our community of Williams Lake and surrounding historical areas was received with interest and gratitude. The Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin and the organizing committee are confident that many conference attendees will return to our area to explore what it has to offer in the future.

Examples of feedback were: -

“The conference was excellent all-round. Enjoyed the reception, the presentations, the keynote, the field trip and the gala. All well organized and venues were great. Presentations were a nice cross-section of topics. The first presenter had to contend with some background noise on account of the book launch going on upstairs, but that was no fault of the organizers. Field trip was really interesting. My only regret is that I never actually had a chance to see downtown!”

“The venue was focused but varied. The box making, the branding, the spectrum of related presentations, the trip to the Mission, the hands-on visit to Crosina's 153 Mile store, the movie "Sugarcane" in a real movie house--all of these provided a strongly insightful package around the theme of "Truth and Reconciliation." And all of it was well organized yet flexible. On the field trip, for example, Bev did a great job keeping track of everyone, loading us on and off the bus on-time, but also providing opportunity for exploration and picture-taking. Best of all, I met folks who are enthusiastic about the past and how it connects to truth. Presenters Phyllis Webstad, Whitney Spearing, the young folks from Toosey, Sarah from the Chinese Canadian Museum, Marion Crook, Maurice Guibord, and others gave me much to ponder. And at the banquet, Rosa Flinton deepened my thoughts with insightful mentions about "custodians of memory," "wounds in our collective memory," "acts of resistance and preservation during times when governments erase huge swaths of history." I only hope that the enlightenment generated by conferences such as this will result in reconciliation, not only for groups who have been wronged but for individuals who have been torn apart and isolated by intolerance. Thank you for bringing this conference to Williams Lake. I look forward to reviewing photos and presentations online.”

The organizing committee and members and staff of the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin and the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame were grateful for the support of the City of Williams Lake and the Cariboo Regional District. The funding received was instrumental in delivering a conference of this caliber in our area.

As per the budget submitted, the following amounts were allocated to conference expenses:-

Transportation	\$ 500.00
Workshop Materials	\$ 250.00
Gala expenses	\$ 750.00
Advertising	\$ 250.00
Rentals	\$ 250.00
	\$2 000.00