

\$15,000 Grant Helps Paris Port Dover Pipe Band Keep the Music Alive

Haldimand-Norfolk and Brant County, ON – In 2021, Paris Port Dover Pipe Band (PPDPB) received a \$15,000 grant from the Government of Ontario's Community Building Fund – Operating stream. This grant, delivered over 12 months by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, will help PPDPB recover from the impact of COVID-19 by retaining staff, enhancing virtual programming, and supporting general operating costs. While headquartered in Haldimand-Norfolk, the band rents a practice hall in Brantford-Brant and is active across both communities.

"The Paris Port Dover Pipe Band is a well-known and very much anticipated presence at so many of our parades and other events," said Haldimand-Norfolk MPP Toby Barrett. "The Ontario Trillium Foundation is playing a part in keeping this tradition alive through the pandemic."

"I am pleased that the Paris Port Dover Pipe Band is able to use this grant to grow and diversify their offerings," added Brantford-Brant MPP Will Bouma. "Music and culture from Scotland is deep-rooted in our Province and this grant will help to continue to provide support for various ceremonies and service organizations throughout the Region."

COVID-19 interrupted PPDPB's regular programming and operations. Practices have moved online, and while the band is unable to gather in person, it still requires a large space to store equipment, supplies and uniforms. This grant will support PPDPB's operational and facility rental costs and help enhance its virtual programming.

"The Paris Port Dover Pipe Band is extremely grateful for the grant provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation," said Gord Black, Senior Pipe Major and Executive Director. "In the last year, the band has adapted many of our regular activities, but have had to postpone or cancel much of our community outreach and fundraising efforts. The cost of rent and storage, however, has been a constant overhead expense. This grant will allow our organization to continue offering our membership high quality instruction as well as bolster our efforts to recruit new members. In addition, it will allow the organization to further develop our website and put more time and resources towards an increased social media presence. This grant provides an opportunity to emerge from the current situation in a strong position and continue to provide our members with renewed experiences to serve and represent our community both locally and internationally."

Thanks to this grant, PPDPB can continue instructing students/members from all demographics, ensuring equity and opportunity amongst members, regardless of cultural and socio-economic background. The focus of PPDPB has always been the development of youth in Scottish music and culture. Enabling members to look and sound their best through teaching, mentoring, and providing quality instruments and uniforms fits in with the overall mandate of performing and representing the local community with excellence.

The mandate of the Paris Port Dover Pipe Band is to act as ambassadors of Canada, the Province of Ontario, and the counties of Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk. PPDPB strives to achieve excellence in the performance of Scottish music, to instruct group lessons for young people of any skill level free of charge, provide them with opportunities to play with an accomplished band, develop their character therein, and support local service clubs and non-profit groups at various ceremonies, memorials, parades, and events. For more information on the teaching program or engaging the band's services, please visit the website at: ppdpb.com.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. Last year, nearly \$112M was invested into 1,384 community projects and partnerships to build healthy and vibrant communities and strengthen the impact of Ontario's non-profit sector. In 2020/21, OTF supported Ontario's economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

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