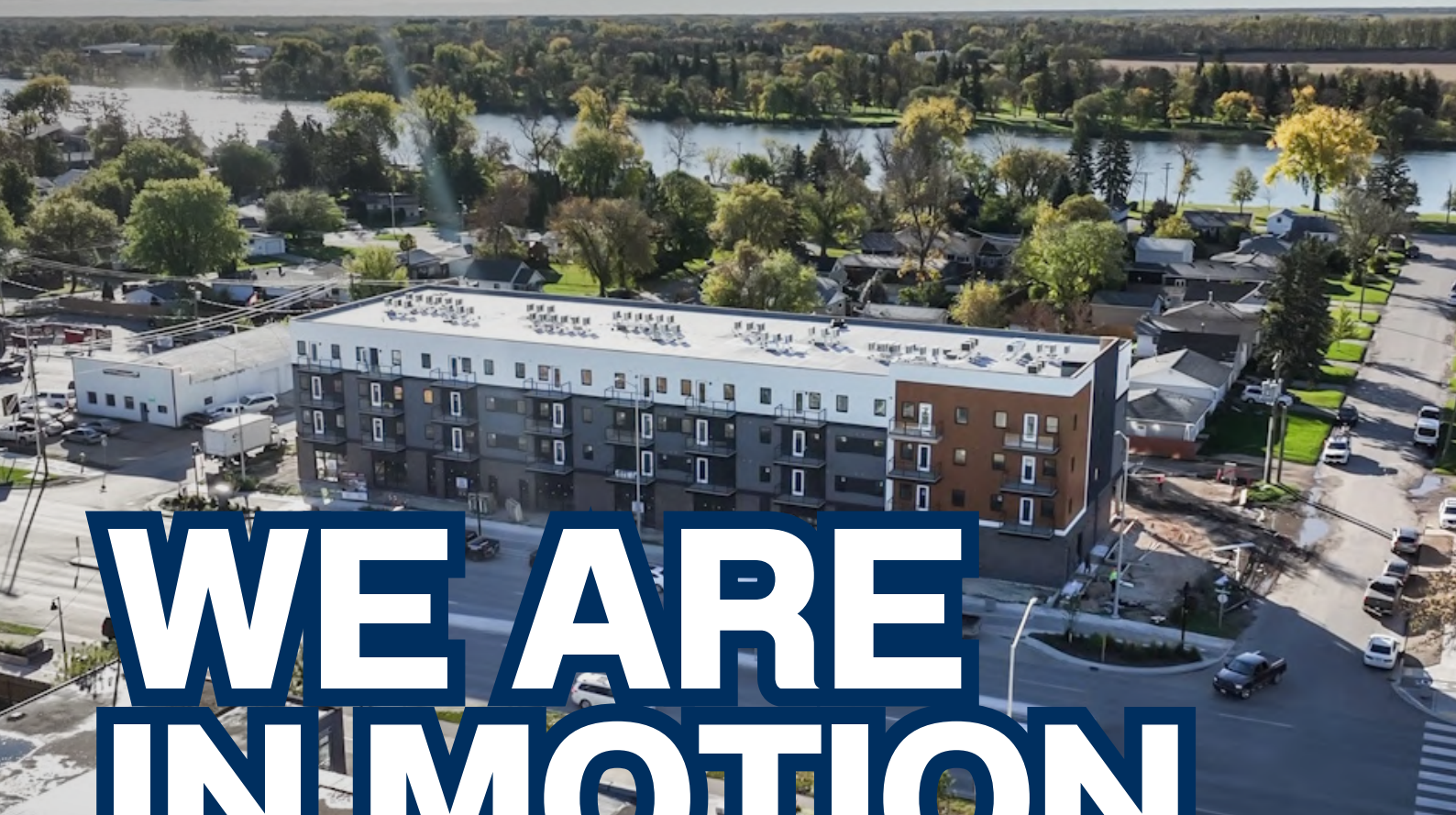




Portage
Regional
Economic
Development

QUARTER 1
REPORT
2026



WE ARE IN MOTION

**SEE WHAT'S DRIVING THE REGION OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE'S
ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**P
R
E
D**

**PORTAGE ECONOMIC RESPONSE TEAM
TAKES ACTION**

BUSINESS WALKS 2025 REPORT RELEASED

**INSPIRING & INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH
IGNITING ENTREPRENEURIAL AMBITION IN HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**EXPANDING OUR OPPORTUNITY
PIPELINE**

PRED'S PRESENCE GOES NATION WIDE

WWW.INVESTINPORTAGE.CA

PRED: WHAT WE DO



Portage Regional Economic Development



PRED is a not-for-profit economic development agency that manages economic development initiatives for the City and RM of Portage la Prairie.

It is through this joint venture that our Region is flourishing and has developed a sophisticated and unique concierge process to create the regional approach model for Economic Development.

PRED Services



PRED: WHO WE ARE



EVE O'LEARY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Eve O' Leary joined the PRED team in December 2019. With over 17 years of business experience working at large international companies and Municipalities, Eve is an accomplished Economic Development Professional that brings a wealth of Economic Development experience and business management knowledge to the organization. Eve can be reached via email at eoleary@investinportage.ca



INEMESIT ADENIYI: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Inemesit Adeniyi joined PRED in March 2022 and is the Economic Development Coordinator. With over 18 years of experience in project management, customer care, office administration, marketing, and salesmanship, she is an invaluable asset to the organization. She is dedicated to helping her community thrive one business, one project and one relationship at a time. Inem can be reached at iadeniyi@investinportage.ca



CALLIE MCARTHUR: TOURISM & MARKETING COORDINATOR

Callie McArthur joined PRED in May 2025 as the Tourism and Marketing Coordinator. With a decade of experience in sales, storytelling, and a knack for making local magic happen, Callie brings big ideas and small-town pride to everything she does. Whether she's planning a can't-miss event, creating scroll-stopping content, or helping visitors fall in love with the prairies, she's all in. Fueled by coffee and community spirit, Callie can be reached at cmcarthur@discoverportagelaprairie.ca

PRED: HOW WE OPERATE

Our Board of Directors plays a vital role in guiding the economic development efforts of the region.



Roy Tufford
Chairperson



Faron Nicholls
Vice-Chairperson



Colin Doyle
Board Member

With representatives from the City and RM of Portage la Prairie, along with local community members, the Board helps shape strategic priorities, provides oversight on key initiatives, and ensures alignment with local needs and opportunities.



Preston Meier
Board Member



Ryan Kontzie
Board Member



Garth Asham
Board Member



Lucy Kinnear
Board Member



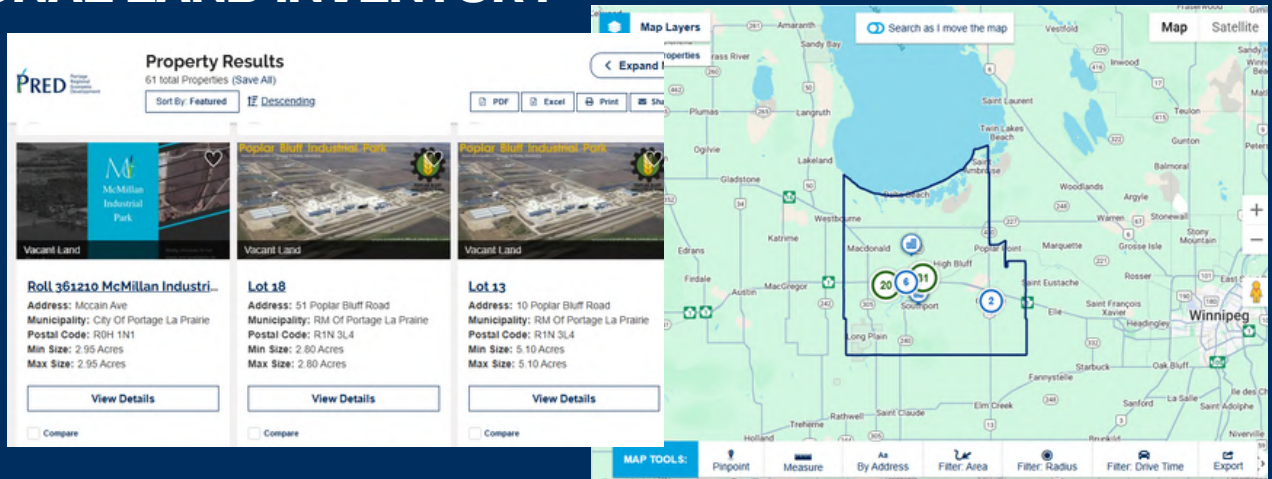
Nathan Peto
Board Member

Their leadership supports our mission to drive growth, investment, and long-term sustainability throughout the region.

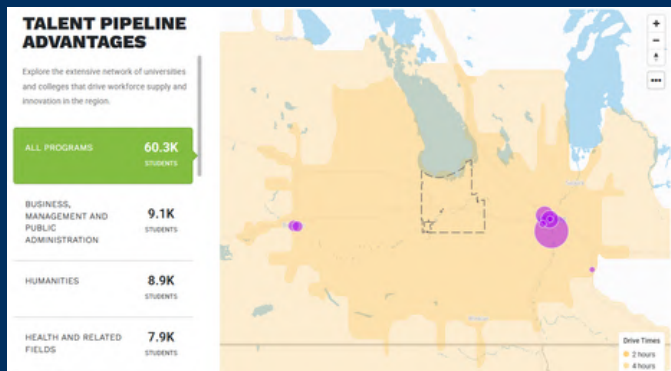
STREAMLINED DATA

The investinportage.ca website features updated data, interactive site selection tools, community profiles, and a brand-new regional land inventory for commercial and industrial property in the Region of Portage la Prairie.

REGIONAL LAND INVENTORY



COMMUNITY DATA

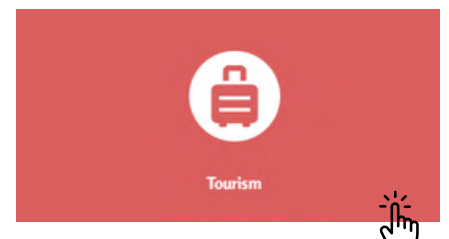
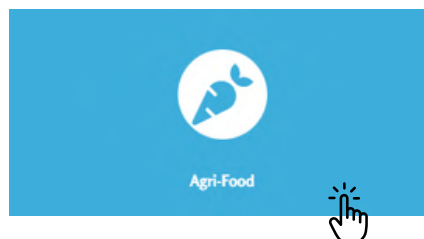
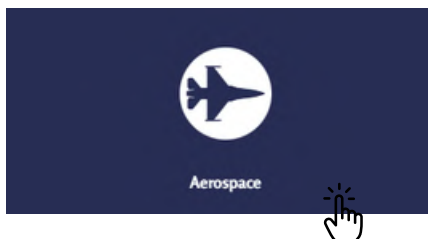


STUDIES, STRATEGIES, & REPORTS



CONNECT WITH THE PRED TEAM TODAY FOR **ECONOMIC INDICATOR DATA** PERTAINING TO THE REGION OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

The Region has 6 Targeted sectors - each has thier own economic data section



BUSINESS WALKS 2025 REPORT



PORTAGE
ECONOMIC
RESPONSE
TEAM

PERT has reviewed all feedback from **businesses and walkers** and is using it to guide ongoing actions, resources, and supports.

In 2026, the team will continue focusing on the areas businesses said matter most:



- **COMPETITION AND ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY**

- Helping businesses access labour market tools, training opportunities, and immigration pathway information.



- **LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

- Sharing resources and guidance to help businesses manage higher operating costs and navigate ongoing economic changes.



- **RETAIL CRIME AND SAFETY PREVENTION**

- Provide practical tools, workshops, prevention strategies, and coordination with enforcement partners.

READ THE FULL REPORT ON PERT'S 2025 BUSINESS WALKS [HERE](#).



**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, IDEAS, OR WANT TO STAY CONNECTED
WITH UPCOMING PERT INITIATIVES, [REACH OUT HERE](#).**

WORK IN MANITOBA PORTAL

ADDRESSING REGIONAL CONCERNS IN LABOUR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



As part of continuing efforts and communication on objectives stemming from Business Walks, to mitigate the barriers businesses have expressed concerns about in labour and workforce development, the Portage Economic Response Team hosted the Work in Manitoba program, a match between employees and employers to support local workforce needs. This program was presented on March 24th 2026.

PERT has identified this as a suitable tool and will roll it out in 2026; it will not only support the business community but also provide real-life, accurate data specific to the Region of Portage la Prairie on workforce and labour needs, creating a holistic approach to how workforce development is addressed.

READ THE FULL REPORT

ON PERT FOCUS AREAS & OBJECTIVES FROM THE **2025 BUSINESS WALKS** [HERE.](#)

SUCCESS STORIES



**ALL VACANCIES
FILLED**

WITH NEW COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES



Old Seasons Building Before



and After Development



**NOW
LEASING**

**COMMERCIAL /
RESIDENTIAL MIXED
USE SPACE**

**Portage Commons Commercial Strip & 56-Unit
Residential Development Progression**



2014



2026

SEE MORE OF OUR AVAILABLE INVESTMENT READY LAND [HERE.](#)



BY-PRODUCT AVAILABILITY & USAGE OPPORTUNITIES PROJECT UPDATE

As part of Portage Regional Economic Development's continued investment attraction efforts and in alignment with the Industrial Development Strategy, PRED formally advanced the By-Product Availability and Usage Opportunities Project in Q4 2025, delivered in partnership with the Food Development Centre (FDC).



This initiative is focused on identifying and showcasing opportunities to maximize the value of by-products generated across local and regional processing sectors.

By mapping available by-products and exploring their potential applications across food, feed, agricultural, industrial, and other value-added uses, the project aims to position the Region of Portage la Prairie as a leader in circular economy innovation and sustainable industry practices.

During Q4, the project progressed from design and scoping into early implementation. A targeted outreach approach was initiated, with a limited number of regional industrial stakeholders invited to participate in the initial assessment phase. This engagement is intended to support participating industries in gaining early insight into potential synergies, exploring collaboration opportunities, and contributing to a robust regional data set that will inform future investment attraction and diversification efforts.



In quarter one 2025, FDC and PRED have **successfully attained five industries to participate** as part of Phase 1 of the project. We are currently in the analysis and engagement phase of the project, where FDC is conducting site visits and data gathering. FDC and PRED presented on the project, the outcomes, and next steps at the March 2, 2026, meeting. More details to be shared as the project unfolds.



FOR A **BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK**
AT THE FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE [**CLICK HERE.**](#)

STRATEGIC PROGRESS FOR REGION'S INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

ON MARCH 2ND, 2026, THE **PORTAGE INDUSTRIAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING** WAS HELD AT THE FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE.



Discussions focused moving actions forward on the Industrial Development Strategy, investment attraction efforts, and the Industrial By-Product & Waste Project. **Key updates included progress** on market gap analysis, workforce development, and collaboration opportunities with local industries.

As part of our **commitment to ongoing collaboration** with industrial partners across the Region of Portage la Prairie, PRED is hosting four meetings this year one each quarter. The next meeting is scheduled for May 2026.

These quarterly meetings bring together regional industry leaders, municipal and Indigenous partners, provincial agencies, and economic development stakeholders.

THE BENEFIT OF THIS IS TO:

- Strengthen B2B connections within the Portage la Prairie region's industrial sector.
- Support synergy-building among local industries.
- Provide direct access to municipal leaders and provincial partners.
- Share updates on priority projects aligned with the Industrial Development Strategy, investment attraction efforts, and educational topics such as trade flows and market diversification.
- Encourage open discussion on opportunities, challenges, and emerging needs.



REGIONAL COLLABORATION ACROSS THE NATION

WORLD AGTECH AND FUTURE FOOD

With funding provided by CanExport to diversify markets for investment attraction in Canada, PRED attended the World AgTech and Future Food Conference in March 2026.

This was a valuable opportunity to learn more about emerging future needs and business shifts within the agri-food sector, including the growing role of AI, automation, and innovation contributions that align with GLPS 1 priorities.

The convention also provided a strong platform to showcase The Region of Portage la Prairie, investment-ready land to potential prospectors and to continue advancing action items identified in the Portage Industrial Strategy.



WESTERN CANADA ECONOMIC FORUM

PRED was represented at the Western Canada Economic Forum, where regional leadership was recognized among the Top 20 Economic Development Leaders in Western Canada. Eve O'Leary, Director of Economic Development, received this recognition alongside leaders across the region including Dennis Meeches, former Chief of Long Plain First Nation, who was also named among the Top 20. This recognition reflects the strength of collaboration across the region and reinforces Portage la Prairie's growing reputation in economic development.



"The collaboration between the municipal governments and all community partners is certainly something that we're most proud of. That is what true economic development is."

- Eve O'Leary, Director of Economic Development

IMPACT OF ATTENDANCE

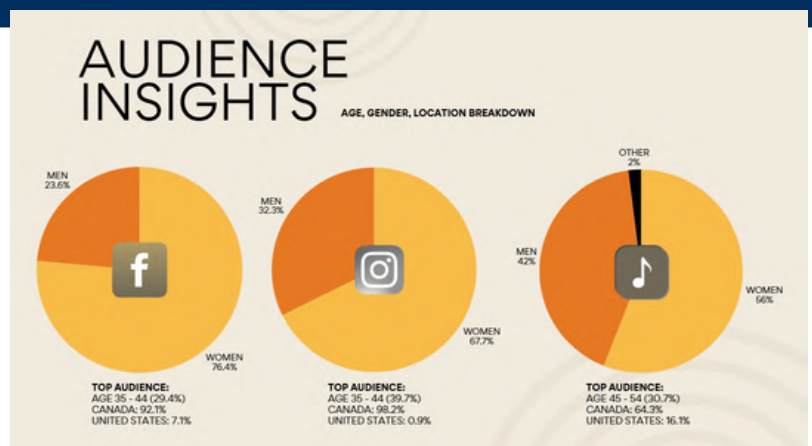
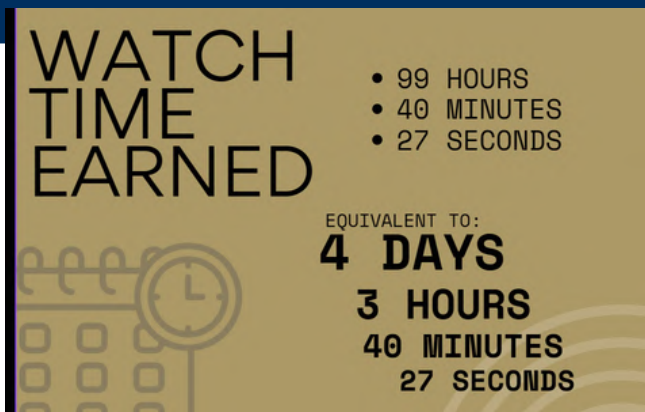
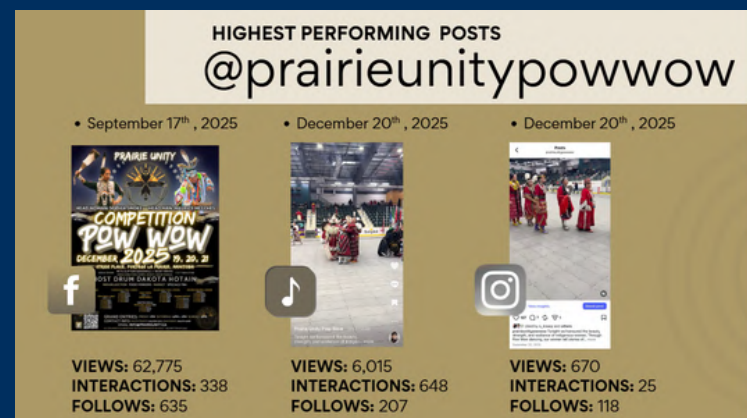
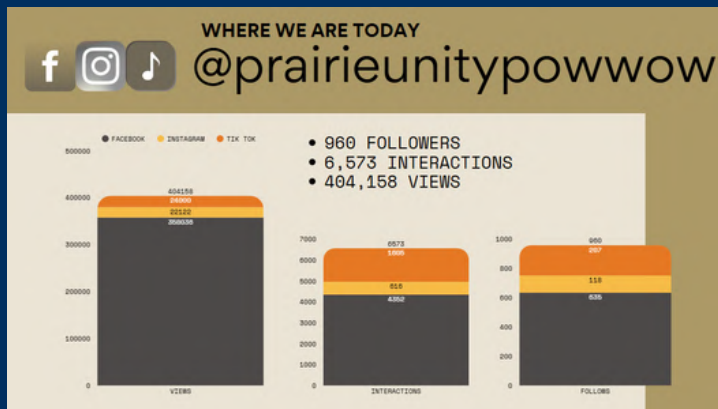
- Strengthened relationships with economic development leaders across Western Canada
- Elevated the visibility of the Region of Portage la Prairie on a national stage
- Reinforced the importance of collaborative partnerships between regional stakeholders
- Supported ongoing efforts in:
 - Investment attraction
 - Regional alignment
 - Business growth and expansion

CEDI PARTNERSHIP

The CEDI partnership continues to move forward with purpose, grounded in collaboration and a shared commitment to strengthening relationships across the region. Following the Prairie Unity Pow Wow, the committee convened for a comprehensive debrief to reflect on successes, identify opportunities for growth, and ensure continued alignment in planning and delivery. Insights gathered from both the event and the Prairie Unity Pow Wow social media report demonstrate strong community engagement and growing visibility, reinforcing the event's importance as both a cultural celebration and a unifying regional initiative.



CEDI • IDEC



Planning is already underway for the 2026 Pow Wow, with early coordination focused on building on this year's momentum while deepening community involvement. In parallel, CEDI partners are working closely with the local school division to support expanded cultural teachings and land-based learning opportunities in 2026, helping to create meaningful, lasting connections for youth and future generations.

At its core, the CEDI table remains a **space for dialogue**, trust building, and shared action. Continued relationship building between partner communities remains essential, ensuring that **collaboration** is not just ongoing, but impactful. This work is foundational to creating a stronger, **more inclusive Region** - one where all communities feel represented, respected, and supported.

FOLLOW @PRAIRIEUNITYPOWWOW TO RELIVE THE HISTORIC EVENT



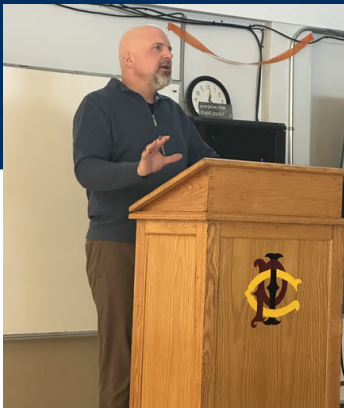
HIGH POTENTIAL AT HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION

LOCAL STUDENTS SHOWCASE **CREATIVITY, AMBITION, AND INNOVATION** AT ANNUAL ENTREPRENEUR COMPETITION



Portage Regional Economic Development (PRED) continued its commitment to fostering youth entrepreneurship by supporting the 2026 PCI Entrepreneurial Challenge. Aligned with the Regional Economic Strategy's focus on **strengthening business engagement and workforce development**, PRED staff served as mentors and guest speakers to high school business students.

This year's Entrepreneurial Challenge showcased an impressive range of student-led business concepts from more than one institution. While each team developed a unique venture, many gravitated toward ideas that addressed real needs within the Region of Portage la Prairie. Common themes included service-based businesses, handmade product ventures, and digital solutions reflecting both the interests of local youth and the opportunities they observe in their community.



The challenge encouraged students to develop real-world business ideas and pitch them to local judges. Throughout the process, PRED worked closely with student teams, offering guidance on business models, target markets, and early-stage concept development. Notably, several participants are already running small ventures in the community, bringing real-world experience into the classroom, and demonstrating how youth entrepreneurship is already taking root in the region. Their participation added depth to the challenge, as they refined their existing business models and applied new strategic thinking gained through mentorship. This highlights the growing entrepreneurial spirit among local youth.



RED RIVER
COLLEGE

Community
Futures



Southport
AEROSPACE CENTRE INC.

PRED LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS PARTNERSHIP IN 2027 AS WE HELP CULTIVATE THE NEXT GENERATION OF **RURAL ENTREPRENEURS** AND CONTRIBUTE TO A **RESILIENT LOCAL ECONOMY.**

READ MORE IN THE PORTAGEONLINE NEWS ARTICLE [**HERE.**](#)

CHECK OUT OUR NEW SALES SHEETS FOR INVESTMENT ATTRACTION



The Portage Advantage

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR SUCCESS

- CLOSE TO WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
- CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE US BORDER
- ACCESS VIA TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY
- CONNECT TO GLOBAL MARKETS



www.investinportage.ca

The Portage Advantage

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR SUCCESS

- OVER 250 + ACRES OF INVESTMENT READY LAND
- THRIVING FAMILY-OWNED ENTERPRISE ECOSYSTEM
- AGRICULTURAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
- DYNAMIC WET AND PROTEIN INDUSTRY CLUSTER PRESENT

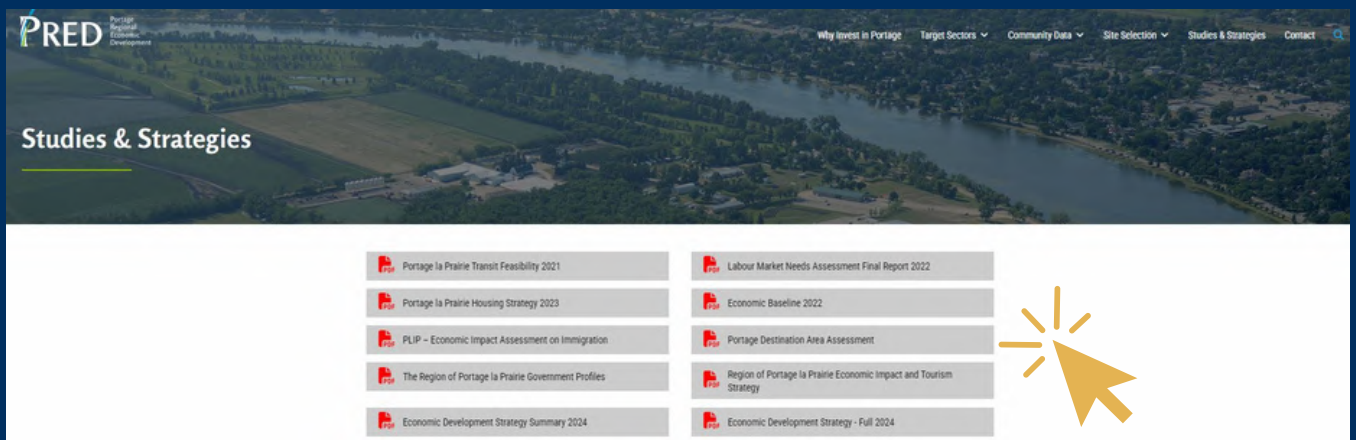


www.investinportage.ca

POPLAR BLUFF INDUSTRIAL PARK

MCMILLAN INDUSTRIAL PARK

STUDIES AND STRATEGIES



If you have a study or strategies you would like shared on this centralized library pertaining to our local economy and to better increase the knowledge of our community send us an email today - eoleary@investinportage.ca

ADVANCING INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

PROJECT UPDATE

The Portage la Prairie region continues to experience growth, bringing new opportunities for industrial expansion and investment. Building on its established strengths in agriculture and food processing, the region is advancing priorities outlined in the 10-Year Economic Development Strategy and Industrial Development Strategy, including agri-food sector growth, foreign direct investment (FDI) diversification, and sustainable workforce development.

Portage Regional Economic Development (PRED) remains focused on creating an environment that attracts new investment while supporting the retention and expansion of existing businesses across the City and Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie. Three key project components are currently underway and progressing on schedule, all within the analysis phase.

MARKET GAP ANALYSIS

This component examines the region's industrial landscape, including land availability, business capacity, and emerging opportunities.

Progress to date:

- Completed interviews with local business and community leaders
- Consolidated and mapped City and RM land data using GIS
- Draft analysis completed, with finalization targeted for March 31

This work will help ensure the region is well-positioned to support business growth through appropriate land use, services, and infrastructure.

TARGETED SECTOR ANALYSIS TO DIVERSIFY FDI

This analysis supports the region's efforts to attract new investment by refining priority sectors and strengthening outreach strategies.

Progress to date:

- Review of current targeted sectors completed
- Profiles developed for two priority international markets
- Curated list of trade shows, conferences, and outreach opportunities identified
- Draft investment attraction messaging developed

This component is currently in Draft 1, with refinements underway ahead of the March 31st milestone.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing that workforce capacity is critical to long-term growth, this component focuses on identifying labour gaps, training needs, and partnership opportunities.

Progress to date:

- Ongoing engagement with regional partners, including discussions on internships and workforce tools
- Review of labour market data and sector-specific workforce needs in progress
- Additional meetings with education and training partners scheduled

This work will support the development of a skilled workforce aligned with current and future industry demands.

INSIGHTS GAINED IN THIS PRED PROJECT WILL GUIDE FUTURE INVESTMENT, SUPPORT **LOCAL BUSINESS GROWTH**, AND HELP BUILD A **STRONG, SUSTAINABLE WORKFORCE** FOR THE REGION. FOR THE DATE OF THE FINAL REPORT, KEEP WATCHING THIS SPACE!

REGIONAL TOURISM



A DESTINATION MANAGEMENT UPDATE:

Q1 2026 focused on establishing a strong foundation for tourism growth through enhanced data tracking, strategic marketing, and deepened regional collaboration. Key efforts included advancing the Island on the Prairies brand, strengthening partnerships through the Portage Regional Tourism Committee, and building tools to better understand and respond to visitor behavior.

INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT & TOURISM GROWTH

- Strengthened relationships with in-person meetings to enhance visitor experience with:
 - Accommodation providers while collecting data for our Tourism Economic Impact Assessment and gaining valuable insight on visitor behavior to support partners further
 - Museum stakeholders provided exciting updates of renovations and grants awarded with letters of support submitted by Tourism and Marketing Coordinator
 - Indigenous Tourism partners saw the value in event-based tourism and appreciated Visitor's Guides
 - Advanced Sports Tourism collaboration with Portage Terriers and Portage Cup
 - Monthly Portage Regional Tourism Committee Meetings
- Supported Tourism presence at:
 - Winter Riot Cheer Competition
 - Portage Cup
 - Local Restaurants: provided QR codes to Discover Portage la Prairie website and Visitor's Guides
 - Major Southport Field House announcement with local and provincial governments
 - PRTC Radio Campaign
 - Capturing real-time insight into visitor experience and community energy

DATA, DIGITAL PERFORMANCE & INSIGHTS

- Developed and implemented standardized data reporting tools for both Discover Portage and PRED's websites and social platforms to track:
 - Campaign performance
 - Visitor engagement
 - Tourism and economic indicators
 - Potential investment leads
 - Opportunities to refine content strategy and targeting

BRAND & DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

- Continued growth of Island on the Prairies as a recognizable and experience-driven tourism identity
- Strengthened storytelling through digital content and regional promotion
- Increased alignment between tourism, economic development, and investment attraction messaging through further engagement with Accommodation providers.

DESTINATION SPOTLIGHT

- The Prairie Unity Pow Wow was nominated for two Manitoba Tourism Awards recognizing excellence in cultural tourism and visitor experience. These nominations put the Region of Portage la Prairie on a Provincial stage to showcase how we truly put the Unity in Community and are a premier destination to visit within the province.

Indigenous Tourism

Presented to an Indigenous-owned tourism business or operator who delivers an exceptional culturally-based travel experience that is respectful of the ecological, cultural and economic integrity of the host community or area. The product is authentic and promotes or advances Indigenous culture with goals to educate visitors and generate or stimulate economic activity in the region.

Finalists

- Oji-Cree Showcase and Market
- Prairie Unity Pow Wow
- Adrian Alphonso - Clear Paths

Social Impact

Presented to a tourism business, organization, event or group that exhibits a strong commitment to creating a positive social impact and demonstrates results, whether through economic, social and environmental sustainability initiatives or creating a safe and inclusive environment for both staff and visitors. The nominee meets the needs of visitors now, while actively protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future.

Finalists

- Giive
- Perimeter Aviation
- Prairie Unity Pow Wow
- Royal Canadian Mint
- Spruce Catering Diversity Food Services
- The Forks

PRTC RADIO COMMERCIAL

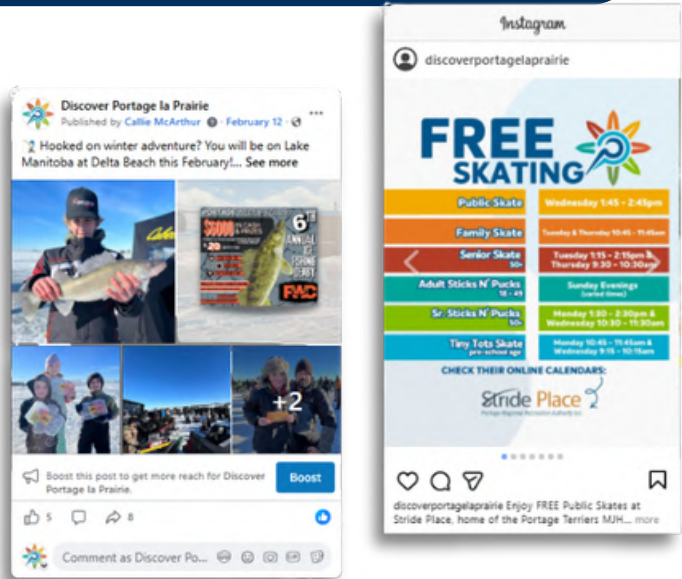
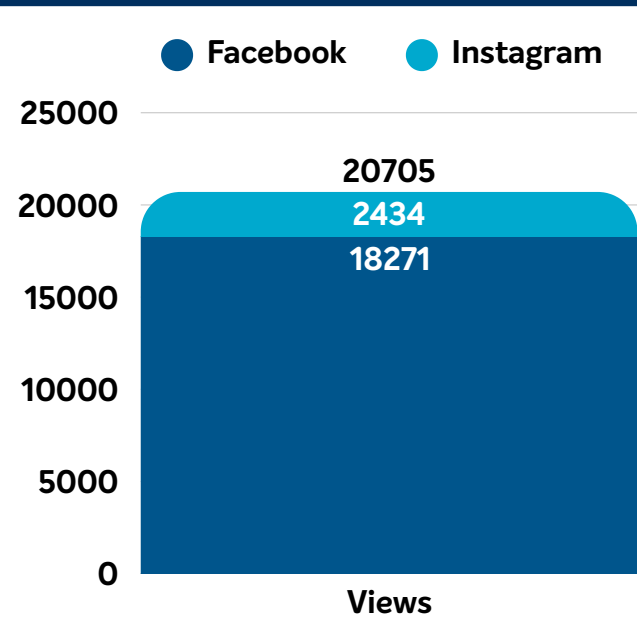
When communities come together, great things happen! The Portage Regional Tourism Committee connects tourism partners and community leaders from across the region, working together to highlight the experiences that make the Island on the Prairies unique. Whether it's time by the lake, exploring local businesses, or discovering something new at a community event, there's always more to see and do. Take a fresh look at the Region of Portage la Prairie. Plan your next outing at discoverportagelaprairie.ca.

DISCOVER MORE IN
OUR REGION HERE:

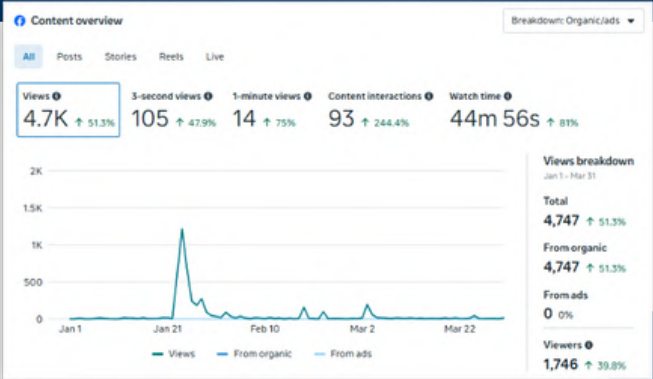


Q4 ONLINE ENGAGEMENT & AWARENESS

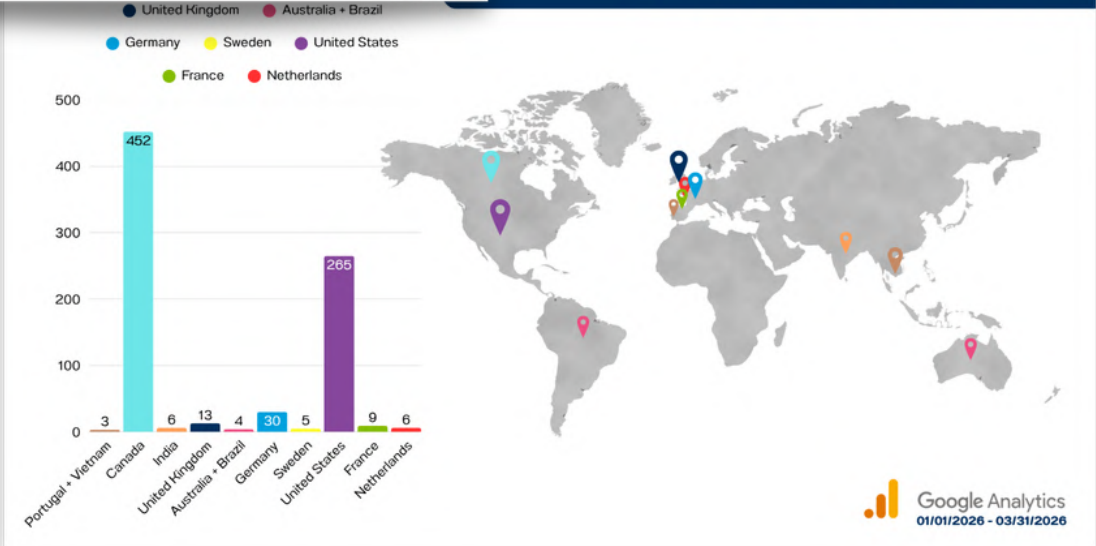
@DISCOVERPORTAGELAPRAIRIE HAS RECEIVED A COMBINED TOTAL OF 20,705 VIEWS IN Q1 AND CONTINUES TO GAIN MOMENTUM WITH FOLLOWERS. THE TOP POSTS IN Q1 RECEIVED A COMBINED TOTAL OF 5,712 VIEWS.



PRED HAS SEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN FACEBOOK TRAFFIC IN Q1, 2026. THE TOP PERFORMING POST WAS OF THE PRED TEAM'S AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS, PROVING THAT OUR AUDIENCE PREFERS HUMANIZING, MORE PERSONAL POSTS!



TOP USERS BY COUNTRY

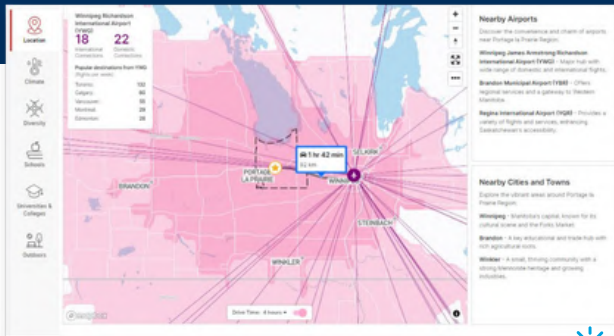


DON'T MISS OUT FOLLOW US



DO YOU NEED DATA?

LOCATION

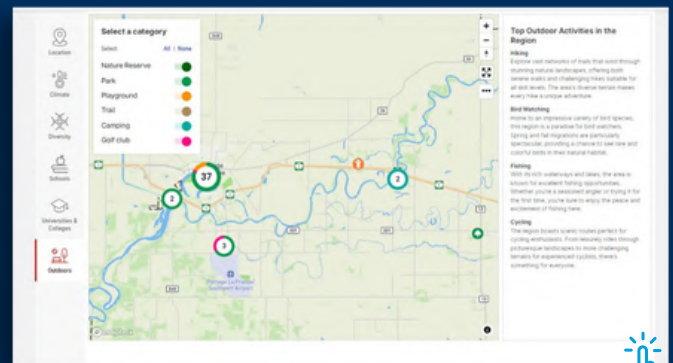


ACCESS TO DATA IS IMPORTANT TO BENCHMARK THE **SUCCESS OF THE COMMUNITY** AND TO ALLOW OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO GROW.

CLIMATE



TOP OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



DIVERSITY



Connect with PRED for **free** Environmental Scans and **economic indicators reports** on the region customized to your business or organizations needs!

Why Invest in Portage



Learn more about our

- Location**
Close to Winnipeg, diverse regions, scenic drives, friendly towns nearby
- Climate**
Warm summers, cold winters, balanced precipitation, truly four seasons experience
- Diversity**
Rich cultural tapestry, Indigenous and European heritage blend beautifully
- Schools**
Diverse programs, supportive community, focus on student success
- Universities & Colleges**
Diverse programs with strong agricultural and environmental focus
- Outdoors**
Best plans, scenic views, and vibrant bird watching opportunities



PRED THREADS

Q1 CONNECTIONS & PARTNERSHIPS



THE PRED TEAM WAS INVITED TO ATTEND THE EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE REGIONAL FIELD HOUSE IN SOUTHPORT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY AND RM OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE AND THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA.

LOCAL NEWS PRED highlights investment, tourism growth in Q4

Gray Kneib, PortageOnline.com | Friday, Jan 30 2020, 12:00 PM

Share:



The Portage Regional Economic Development (PRED) office on Southport Avenue, where visitors supporting investment, local business growth, and tourism in the region are encouraged. Photo: Gray Kneib



THE PRED TEAM ATTENDED THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT GRACIOUSLY HOSTED BY THE PORTAGE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE PORTAGE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION CORPORATION AT PRAIRIE FUSION ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT.

Portage leaders awarded for economic growth in Western Canada

By Renee Liley | Jan 30, 2020 | Updated | Feb 2, 2020

Two regional leaders are being celebrated for their roles in driving growth across Western Canada after receiving prestigious industry honours at a recent regional summit.

Eve O'Leary, director of economic development for Portage Regional Economic Development Inc. (PRED), and Dennis Meeches of Long Plain First Nation were both named recipients of the West 20 (W20) award. The awards were presented during the Western Canadian Economic Forum held in Winnipeg.



Local News



Prairie Unity Pow Wow earns two reciprocal tourism award nods

The Prairie Unity Pow Wow in Portage is Prairie's recipient of provincial recognition, earning nominations for two prestigious Tourism Awards from Travel Manitoba and Winnipeg Economic Development and Tourism.

The event, which brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, is being celebrated for both its social impact and contribution to Indigenous tourism.

"Now that we're finalists, it really shows the impact that this has not only on our community, but the whole province itself," notes Catha McArthur, Tourism and Marketing Coordinator with Portage Regional Economic Development.

The Social Impact Award recognizes tourism businesses, events, or organizations demonstrating a strong commitment to positive social outcomes. This includes economic, social, and environmental sustainability, as well as creating safe and inclusive spaces for staff and visitors.

LOCAL NEWS Portage leaders honoured for economic development work

Maryann McArthur, PortageOnline.com | Tuesday, Feb 07 2020, 5:00 PM

Share:



The Western Canadian Economic Forum (W20) award honours Portage Regional Economic Development Inc. (PRED) and Dennis Meeches of Long Plain First Nation who were recognized among Western Canada's top 20 economic development leaders at the Western Canadian Economic Forum in Winnipeg. Submitted Photo: Gray Kneib

Celebrating Indigenous tourism and culture

The Pow Wow is also a finalist for the Indigenous Tourism Event of the Year Award, which recognizes Indigenous-owned tourism businesses or operators who deliver culturally authentic experiences that respect the ecological, cultural, and economic integrity of the host community. The award honours operators whose products educate visitors and stimulate economic activity in the region.

"This is the first-of-its-kind event that we had around here, and especially with this joint partnership," continues McArthur. "We had visitors from all over Canada, all over the United States, Arizona, Minnesota, Ontario, Quebec, and lots from BC. It was our dancers, spectators, vendors, and attendees. It was such a vast array of every kind of culture and background."

McArthur mentions that the event helped bridge gaps between communities and foster learning.



Catha McArthur, Tourism and Marketing Coordinator with PRED, speaks at the Golden West Radio studios in Portage to Prairie about the Prairie Unity Pow Wow's provincial tourism award nomination. Photo: Catha McArthur



THE WINTER RIOT CHEER COMPETITION WAS HELD AGAIN AT STRIDE PLACE BRINGING IN VISITORS FROM ALBERTA TO ONTARIO PACKING THE STANDS!

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS!

LET'S BEGIN!



PRED meets and takes information requests from many businesses each month. If you would like a visit or information about the economic pulse of the Region connect today.

CHECK OUT OUR FAQ SECTION



www.investinportage.ca



204 - 856 - 5000



Investinportage



eoleary@investinportage.ca



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