

Council Priority Funds – Application

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PRIORITY FUND INFORMATION – Completed by Applicant

Organization Name Archbishop Jordan High School

Address 4001 Emerald Drive
Street and number Subdivision if rural

City or town Sherwood Park Province Alberta Postal code T8H 0P5

Contact person Sarah Dewhurst

Telephone 780-467-2121 ext 1460

Email address (optional) sarah.dewhurst@eics.ab.ca

Project Type ☒ Event ☐ Project ☐ Expense

Amount Requested \$ 1250.00

Brief description of request

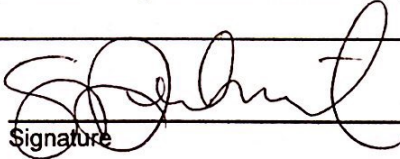
At Archbishop Jordan High School, we host an Indigenous Graduation ceremony each year at which we present our Indigenous graduates with a special token from an Elder to celebrate their accomplishment.

Our students who identify as First Nations will receive an Eagle feather, collected and prepared by an Elder. Our students who identify as Metis will receive a Metis sash, presented by an Elder.

This amount would cover the cost of the gifts, as well as the attendance of the Elder and a knowledge keeper to present the gifts, congratulate the graduates, as well as give the Indigenous grads, as well as all other grads, teachings about the importance of graduation in the Indigenous community.

Sarah Dewhurst

Print name


Signature

May 1, 2019

Date

Please remember to attach a proposed budget and request letter to this request.

Number of attached pages 4

Collection and use of personal information

Personal information is collected under the authority of section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and will be used to manage and administer Council Priority Funds. Please be aware that information provided may be made public. If you have questions regarding the collection, use or disclosure of this information, contact Vicky Cushman at 780-464-8098.

EO 3513-D 2019-02-19

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Attn: Council Priority Funds Allocation

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this application for Council Priority Funds from Archbishop Jordan High School. We are requesting funds to provide a graduation token to each of our Indigenous Students upon their graduation at the end of their grade 12 year.

The money provided to ABJ for this event would cover the cost of Eagle feathers for First Nations students, Metis sashes for Metis students, as well as the attendance of an Elder and a Knowledge Keeper to share teachings with the Indigenous graduates, and their families, as well as with all grade 11 and 12 students are the Grad Blessing celebration.

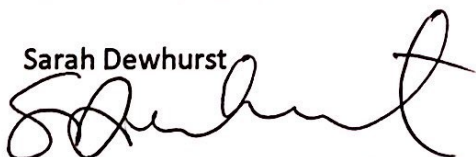
In First Nations cultures, Eagle feathers hold a very important significance, especially when given to those who are encountering a rite of passage, such as graduation. Elder Theresa Strawberry, along with Knowledge Keeper Bernadine Coleman, will be sharing this teaching first with the Indigenous grads, then with the grad class as a whole. The Eagle feather is taught to represent honesty, truth, majesty, strength, courage, wisdom, power and freedom. For Indigenous communities, an Eagle feather is used in ceremonies to call upon the Creator and to command respect and focus on the situation at hand. Presenting this to the graduates calls the graduates to accept the call of the Creator to take care of the feather, and to treat it with the reverence and respect it deserves.

In Metis culture, the sash also holds a great significance. Even today, the sash continues to be an integral part of Metis cultural celebrations. The sash is a symbol of nationhood and cultural distinction, symbolizing pride and identification for Metis people. Presenting this to the graduates during the blessing ceremony allows them to have pride in their heritage, and to show it off so that others may learn about it too.

One of the most important aspects of the Indigenous Graduation Ceremony at ABJ is the interaction and teachings that come with the attendance of Elder Theresa, and Knowledge Keeper Bernadine Coleman. These two amazing ladies bring with them cultural teachings as well as a vehement pride in their cultures. They act as role models for our students, so that they may see the beauty of Indigenous cultures and traditions.

We hope that you will recognize the significance and importance of our Indigenous Grad Ceremony at Archbishop Jordan High School. We believe that this funding would help to provide students with meaningful, authentic representations of their cultures to empower them as they enter the world of adulthood. Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Dewhurst



Indigenous Education Lead, Archbishop Jordan High School

Proposed Budget – ABJ Indigenous Grad Ceremony

Item	Unit Cost	Number Needed	Total
Eagle Feathers	\$200/feather	3	\$600
Metis Sash	\$20/sash	7	\$140
Elder/Knowledge Keeper Honorarium	\$250/each	2 (1 Elder, 1 Knowledge Keeper)	\$500
		Total Budget	\$1250