

# RED DEER ROYALS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



September 30, 2017

The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Ottawa

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

We are making a direct personal appeal to you for assistance with the funding of a very unique project in Central Alberta. We are taking this unusual approach because we feel we have fallen between the cracks of two federal funding programs to which we have applied: Canada 150 funding and Infrastructure Canada funding. Specifically, we are requesting \$500,000 in funding, representing just under 20% of our project cost. We have the support of Hon. Blaine Calkins, MP for Red Deer – Lacombe, in this endeavor.

The Red Deer Royals Marching Show Band has been a fixture on the provincial, national and international marching band scene since 1969. Remarkably, during almost 50 years of existence, the Band has never had a permanent home – moving from pillar to post to find suitable – or any – rehearsal space. Over the decades, the Royals Band has rehearsed in strip malls, schools, agricultural pavilions, airport hangars, hockey arenas and almost any space large enough to accommodate a marching band of up to 125 members.

Ten years ago, our small group of former Royals members and parents of former members undertook to provide the Band with a suitable, permanent rehearsal facility. We were ultimately successful in partnering with the Red Deer Catholic Regional School Division on the construction of The Kinsmen Fieldhouse, “Home of the Red Deer Royals”, as a part of St. Joseph High School in east Red Deer. Our financial commitment was \$2,700,000, representing 50% of the cost of the Fieldhouse. The facility was completed this spring and the Red Deer Royals Band began rehearsing there in April.

To date, funds raised and committed to the Fieldhouse total \$2,100,000, leaving \$600,000 to take us to completion of this project. Our raised monies have come from a wide range of sources, including the following:

- |                       |           |   |
|-----------------------|-----------|---|
| • City of Red Deer    | \$250,000 |   |
| • Province of Alberta | \$250,000 | Through the Community Facility Enhancement Projects grant                     |
| • Kinsmen Club        | \$600,000 | Cash donation – naming rights   |
| • Fundraisers         | \$525,000 | Includes 10 years of golf tournaments, high profile fundraising dinners, etc. |
| • Private Donations   | \$350,000 | From two former Red Deer Royals families                                      |
| • Other Donations     | \$125,000 | Cash donations from community members   |

Your favorable response to our request would be a show of support for:

- Personal development and leadership training for the youth of Central Alberta.

As a demonstration of the power of this organization to shape the lives of its members, Melinda Mills, Ph.D., daughter of our former MP Bob Mills, is Head of the Sociology Department at Oxford University in the U.K. as well as Editor-in-Chief of the European Sociology Review and Fellow of the European Academy of Sociology. Melinda says the two greatest influences in her life journey have been her involvement in 4-H and her 10 years as a member of the Red Deer Royals.

- Community service. Royals do 40 performances annually in support of our local Central Alberta communities and organizations, including many parades and other community functions.
- Arts funding in Central Alberta. Athletic facilities tend to be pretty well supported financially; Arts facilities not so much. (Our facility is both an Arts and Sports facility)
- Continued recognition of Canada, Alberta and Red Deer City on the world stage. To date, the Royals have five international Gold Medals in places like Germany, Italy, Malaysia, at home in Canada, and most recently, in the Netherlands in July 2017. Please see an enclosed document for further information on the Red Deer Royals' accomplishments.

Of the four points listed above, we have to say that the most important one is the first – the role the Band plays in the development of youth in Central Alberta. Most of them stay in Royals for between 5 and 8 years, and to a person, they say that their lives have been enriched and positively impacted by their membership. We encourage you to read the powerful testimonial comments from some recent Royals graduates on an enclosed statement.

Our organization has a large community base, as you will see later in this correspondence. We are hoping for an affirmative reply to our request. This would provide a huge commitment to our local youth development and community service activity.

Prime Minister, we would view your government's contribution to the Red Deer Royals as a vital part of providing a training and performance facility for the Royals, helping to provide healthy, positive and productive engagement of Central Alberta youth.

Yours very sincerely,

Glen Pangle  
President  
Red Deer Royals Alumni Association

Ray McBeth  
Fundraising Chair  
Red Deer Royals Alumni Association

Rob Goring  
Vice-President  
Red Deer Royals Alumni Association  
Royals Band Director (Retired)



So . . . does being in the Red Deer Royals really have any **meaningful impact** on the lives of the young people in the band???

**Yeah, you might say so. (Read on!)**



## In Their Own Words:

The following are impact statements from some of the thousands of youth who have been Royals members over the past 48 years.

- *Joining, and choosing to stay in the Royals was truly one of the defining decisions of my life. Royals is not just a place to learn music, it's a place to learn important life skills. I would not be the person I am today without this band.*
- *Being a member of the Red Deer Royals organization has given me so much over the past 5 years. It has taught me the importance of leadership, dedication, and friendship.*
- *Royals has taught me the importance of a solid work ethic and given me valuable leadership skills I can use in future.*
- *This band has changed my life and I will always remember the experience I had. Royals is truly a once in a lifetime experience.*
- *I am eternally grateful for my time as a member because without this wonderful family I would be in no way who I am today.*
- *I can personally attest that this organization has shaped my life.*
- *I will always keep with me that feeling of accomplishment and knowing what I am capable of, to push me not only in marching band but in life as well.*
- *Somebody once told the band that the Royals were not a group of extraordinary people doing extraordinary things, but a group of ordinary people CHOOSING to do extraordinary things. I think that's what this was all about, to humbly reach for something incredible within ourselves.*
- *This organization has been a huge part of my life for the past three years and I can honestly say, it has helped in no small way to shape me into the person I am today. It has taught me responsibility, confidence and the benefits of hard work. I am yet to know a better feeling.*
- *I could ramble on for hours about how great it is but the point is; I love this band and everyone in it and I'm proud to say that joining the Red Deer Royals is the best decision I've made.*
- *The ideas of determination, hard work, and undying brotherhood guides young, inexperienced kids and trans-forms them into passionate, driven, and active young adults who will use those principles throughout their entire lives.*
- *Looking back, I remember how daunting I thought it would be when I first joined the Royals. It wasn't long until I realized I had found a second family that encourages and supports one another. Since my first rehearsal, I have grown as a musician and as a leader. Even now I am privileged to see others grow, just as I have done.*
- *The Red Deer Royals shaped who I am as a person today. There's no other group in the world who can take small, shy children like I was and help them become strong, open and active people like I am. There's nothing that can help you find out who you are more than pushing yourself past every limit you thought you had and finding out you can go even further; I've never stopped pushing myself harder since my first performance with the Red Deer Royals.*
- *The Royals have taught me to work hard, never give up, to push my boundaries, and to always put my best foot forward. I cannot express how proud I am to be a part of such an amazing, accepting, and talented group of people.*