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# MusiCounts x Canada's Great Kitchen Party 2021-2022

CANADA'S MUSIC EDUCATION CHARITY



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# Music adds possibilities.

MusiCounts is Canada's music education charity, associated with CARAS and the JUNO Awards, and we believe that **all children and youth in Canada should have access to music education.**

**MusiCounts makes music education inclusive, sustainable, and accessible** for youth across Canada by providing musical instruments, equipment, and resources.





# The MusiCounts Band Aid Program

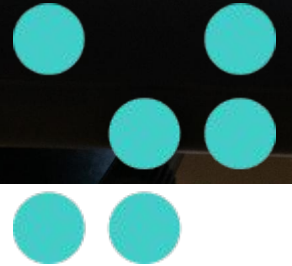
The MusiCounts Band Aid Program provides under-resourced schools with grants of up to \$15,000 worth of musical instruments, equipment, and resources.

This program exists because music education is chronically underfunded across Canada, which means it is often the youth with the highest level of need who are not able to access the benefits of music education.

EST 1997

\$11.5 MILLION

1215 SCHOOLS





## IMPACT



## St. Teresa of Calcutta School Edmonton, AB

### REQUEST

St. Teresa of Calcutta School is requesting Orff instruments and a variety of percussion instruments to support their multilingual and multicultural at-risk student population. Students are encouraged to share and perform instruments from their cultures and study composers of different ethnicities.

### NEED & BACKGROUND

Currently, there are not enough instruments for every student to participate in a full lesson and the few instruments they do have are in need of repair. St. Teresa of Calcutta students face many financial and socio-economic barriers and have difficulty accessing music education outside of the school setting. For the vast majority of the school population, the only music instruction they will ever receive will be in their music classes at school. St. Teresa of Calcutta School is a racially diverse, inner-city school located in the Boyle-McCauley area in Edmonton, Alberta. In comparison to the average in Edmonton, their school community is among the lowest socio-economic status (90% of their students) and highest crime rate areas in Edmonton. The complex student population of 214 students has a very high immigrant/English Language Learner population (45%), Black youth population (41%), and Indigenous population (19%). There is a large number of students with speech, occupational and behavioral needs, or other disabilities (20%). Across the many countries represented by St. Teresa students, music has become the voice in which they come together. Thank you to Canada's Great Kitchen Party and MusiCounts for providing the students of St. Teresa of Calcutta School the opportunity to learn the skills and explore the multicultural lessons that come with receiving new instruments and a deeper music education.



## IMPACT



## Exshaw School

### Exshaw, AB

#### REQUEST

Exshaw School is requesting guitars and guitar method books, Midi-Controller keyboards, headphones, and a sound-system with microphones. These purchases will ensure a well-rounded, relevant, and intriguing musical education.

#### NEED & BACKGROUND

There is not currently, nor has there ever been a band, string, or choir program at the school. Most of the instruments are in poor condition and are in need of replacement. The measly \$500 music program budget is used to replace ukulele pegs to attempt to maintain proper tune. The only other resources available are in the form of a year subscription to musicplayonline which uses 40% of the already stretched \$500 budget. Exshaw School faces great levels of poverty as 95% of the students come from very challenging home environments, common on other reservations throughout the country. Most students' exposure to musical education comes from Pow-Wows. Barriers are not just limited to access to instruments, but also the school's location. In Exshaw, students are bussed in from the Stoney Nakoda Reservation 30km away. With 99% of Exshaw students being of Indigenous backgrounds, music is extremely important to their cultures and identities. Exshaw students face many challenges unique to a student body comprised of children growing up on a reserves. One of the critical issues is a fluctuating attendance record, so it is difficult to offer everyone an ensemble based music education. Thanks to Canada's Great Kitchen Party and MusiCounts, Exshaw School can purchase new instruments to engage their students. The flexibility of a guitar and production based curriculum ensures the students are able to learn at their own pace and allows for more ensemble experiences and collaborations on an ad hoc basis.



## IMPACT



## Morinville Community High School Edmonton, AB

### REQUEST

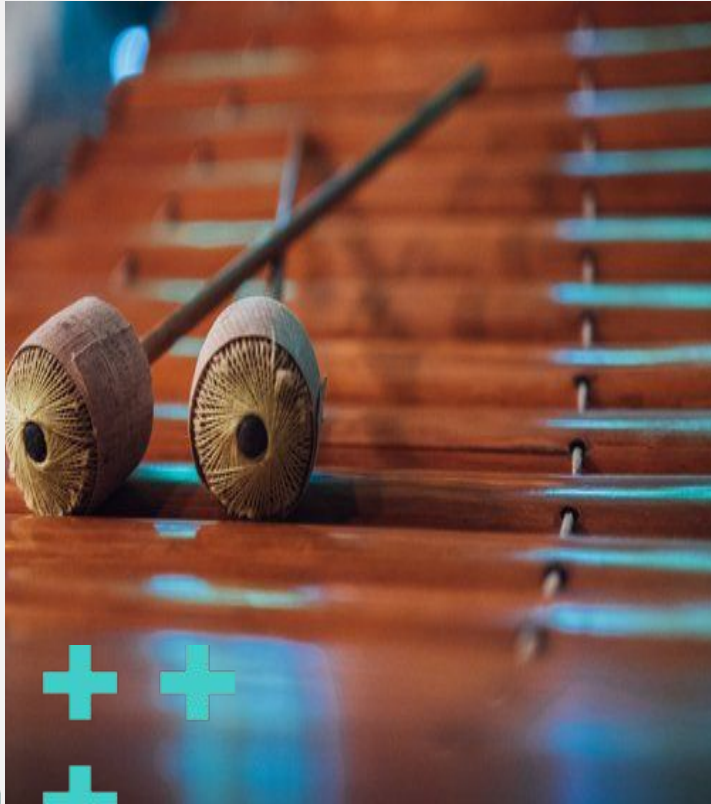
Morinville Community High School is requesting various instruments and equipment. Their current instruments are in dire need of repair and replacement. They would like to purchase guitars with cases. For longevity, safety, and upkeep they have requested reeds, valve oil, COVID-19 PPE for all students, reusable folders to use year after year, a stand cart and chair racks.

### NEED & BACKGROUND

The current state of the Morinville Community High School musical instruments and equipment inventory is one of an aging program. A guitar program is highly requested at MCHS, but there has never been the supplies necessary in order to fully realize the program. By having the guitars at the school, the financial barrier for many students would be removed. Morinville Community is an anomaly as it is one of two high schools in the district, and is the closest high school for many students who live 45 minutes to an hour outside of Edmonton. 100% of the students come from an isolated or great distance. MCHS is also near a military base that houses a portion of students. This transient nature means there are not enough students enrolled to make the band program a full year program. The lack of participants has forced the program to be removed from the curriculum and be turned into an extracurricular activity. As 25% of the students come from low-income homes, many students work to help support their families. These students are not able to join the band as it runs after school when they have to work. Thank you Canada's Great Kitchen Party and MusiCounts for alleviating the cost and providing the opportunity for the students of Morinville Community to finally have a highly-requested guitar program.



## IMPACT



## Cunningham Elementary

### Vancouver, BC

#### REQUEST

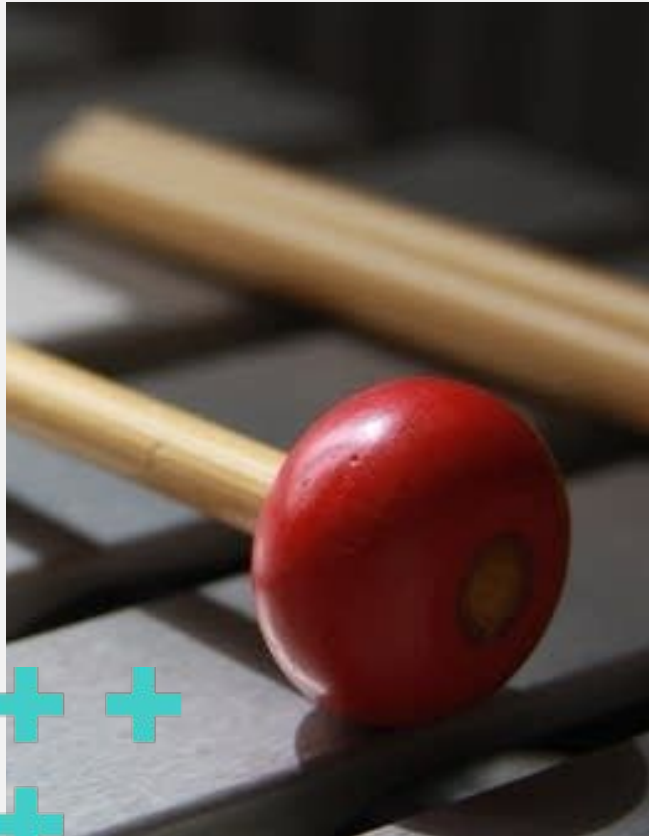
Cunningham Elementary is requesting a full set of Orff instruments to deliver appropriate foundational programming. The instruments will allow the students to expand their musical knowledge and repertoire, help foster an appreciation of musical instruments, and inspire them to continue in a music program in high school.

#### NEED & BACKGROUND

The need is doubled as Cunningham Elementary currently houses two schools in one building. Sir Guy Carleton Elementary was moved into Cunningham's school site in 2016 when their school caught fire. The current inventory consists of 20 guitars, a set of Boomwhacker percussion sticks, and a couple Djembe drums; certainly not enough to support two schools of music students. Cunningham Elementary is a Tier 3 level inner city school located on the Eastside of Vancouver. Tier 3 means they have special education assistants, literacy specialists, social-emotional support workers, multicultural liaison workers, and tutoring support. These supports are important, especially for such a devastated area and diverse population, however, there is no support for the music program. Over 50% of the students are English language learners. Thanks to Canada's Great Kitchen Party and MusiCounts, all students of Cunningham Elementary will receive a musical education that suits students of all backgrounds. All of the students will be able to participate as Orff instruments eliminate physical, intellectual, and socio-economic barriers that over half of the school population face. Language is the main barrier between the students, music will be the bridge that finally connects them all.



## IMPACT



## St. Laurent School

### St. Laurent, MB

#### REQUEST

St. Laurent School is requesting a variety of instruments such as Soprano Ukuleles, mallet instruments, and drums. These instruments are staples that every music classroom needs. They are all easy to learn, help develop musical skills such as rhythm and sightreading, and are highly regarded in the community due to the high Indigenous population.

#### NEED & BACKGROUND

St. Laurent's current inventory is dismal, damaged, and in disarray. This school year the music department was given approximately \$250 for the entire year, which is equivalent to just one snare drum. Providing the students with a rich musical experience, something they do not get outside of school (32% of students being from low-income families), would also provide the students with a positive, fun, safe environment, another necessity most students do not have access to. The school is in a community which has a strong music culture, 74% of the students are of Indigenous backgrounds. St. Laurent also has a high population of kids in care (21%). These children and youth are facing situations beyond their control in their home lives. Many of these kids struggle with academics as most students come to school with practically no pre-literacy skills. Due to challenges with academics for many students, an enriching music program will help the students feel successful and supported outside of their regular classroom. This program is for students to feel masterful so they can build intrinsic motivation that will then transfer to other areas in their life, such as other school subjects. Thanks to Canada's Great Kitchen Party and MusiCounts, the students of St. Laurent can access a music program that will foster more than musical skills - confidence, determination, self-love, and joy will be felt by all.



## IMPACT



## Neepawa Middle School

### Neepawa, MB

#### REQUEST

Neepawa Middle School is requesting a class set (26) of Jumbie Jam Steel drums as well as various teaching materials to go along with these instruments. These drums will connect the students to their cultures as well as provide a learning experience.

#### NEED & BACKGROUND

Steel drums are the desired instrument amongst the students because they allow a greater amount of time exploring different cultures in a more authentic way. Due to having many immigrant families and first generation Canadians, the majority of youth cannot afford private music lessons which means the students' only musical experiences is through school. 55% of the NMS students are from the Philippines, with new students moving to the community and starting school every week. Many of these students struggle with understanding and writing English upon arriving to Canada. Music class does not always require speaking or understanding English therefore all students can actively participate despite the language barriers. Beyond the language barrier there is the location obstacle. 100% of the students come from isolated areas. This limits the ability to create after school extracurriculars. 25% of the families in the community struggle to make ends meet which further limits student participation in extracurriculars. The exploration into other musical cultures encourages students to talk about their own musical traditions, offering a deeper appreciation and education. Thank you, Canada's Great Kitchen Party and MusiCounts for providing the students of Neepawa Middle School with relevant instruments that will break down the socio-economic, language, and location barriers and allow for an enriching and culturally diverse learning environment.



## IMPACT



## Lake Melville School Northwest River, NL

### REQUEST

Lake Melville School is requesting a variety of drums which will have a significant impact on not only the students' musical education but on the cultural learning of these students. These drums will infuse culture into the curriculum, and will re-engage and educate students.

### NEED BACKGROUND

Many of the existing instruments are 10-15 years old and although they are in good condition they have not been regularly played or maintained. LMS would like to create an Indigenous drumming music program for the students by providing them with a variety of instruments and diversifying the available learning materials. It will help to enrich the cultural and artistic opportunities for the students while making connections to the world around them and their own community. Lake Melville School is a rural and remote K-12 school located in Northwest River and adjacent to Sheshatshui. With a student population of approximately 125 students – approximately 75% of which are of Indigenous ancestry. The fine arts, by nature, have strong ties to this community's values and traditions. With such a diverse student population, 100% being geographically isolated, 60% coming from low-income families, roughly 20% having a cognitive or physical disability, it is crucial to integrate a range of cultural traditions into the classroom, including vernacular musical traditions relevant to students' daily lives. Thanks to Canada's Great Kitchen Party and MusiCounts, this has been made possible! The students of Lake Melville School will finally have a well-rounded, relevant, and culturally inclusive music program. By having a more engaging music program, students will become even more inclined to participate. Expanding the music program offers the Lake Melville students the opportunities to participate in local music festivals and become active members of the community.



## IMPACT



## Chebucto Heights Elementary School

### Halifax, NB

#### REQUEST

Chebucto Heights Elementary School is requesting drums which will be used for a drumming circle and music therapy. To expand the cultural relevance of the program, they are requesting funding to have a Mi'kmaq elder come in the classroom to make drums with the student's. The instruments need to reflect the students and the current instrument selection does not do that.

#### NEED & BACKGROUND

Lots of instruments in the music room are homemade, for example, a set of egg shakers made with corn and held together with tape. Most instruments and materials are purchased in the cheapest way possible due to the \$200 budget. Without a class set of instruments not everyone has a turn to play. As 90% of the student population come from low-income families, it is impossible to ask the students' families to financially support their music education. Chebucto Heights welcomes students from other countries every month who do not speak any English. The best way these students communicate is through music. It is overwhelming for a child to move to a new country where no one speaks their language but they can feel comfortable in music class. CHES is extremely diverse and engages with BIPOC youth on a daily basis. Learning about other countries through instruments is the students' favorite way to introduce a new topic. The Djembe has been used all year because it is the only instrument in the classroom that is from another country. Since there are many students from Africa, India, and Syria, CHES would like to have instruments from those cultures to better represent and identify with the student population. Canada's Great Kitchen Party and MusiCounts has provided the students of Chebucto Heights Elementary School the opportunity to explore their cultures and connect with one another, despite not speaking the same language.



## IMPACT



## Yorkdale Secondary School Toronto, ON

### REQUEST

Yorkdale Secondary School is requesting production and recording tools and a variety of instruments that desperately need upgrades. When students go to class and see old pianos, dated keyboards, broken drums, and limited technology it degrades their sense of worth. These students deserve the opportunity to be creative with quality tools and instruments.

### NEED & BACKGROUND

In terms of music production equipment, Yorkdale Secondary School has very little: two low end condenser microphones, headphones purchased at the dollar store, freeware software found online, and a makeshift recording booth in a broom closet. YSS houses two unique schools: an EdVance program for students 18 - 20 years of age and an adult day school for students 21 and over who are working to receive their OSSD. The existing instruments are well-loved, well-used, but have not aged well. Yorkdale is in north west Toronto and hosts one of the EdVance programs created by the TDSB. The goal of an EdVance program is to provide a safe place for students who have no other place to go. 95% all of the students come from very low socio-economic households. Most of the students are new to Canada and are learning English, roughly 75% are refugees. Practically all of the students need to work jobs in order to help provide for their families. This school has also become a haven for youth who have dropped out of regular public schools as a result of bullying and violence. YSS has many LGBTQ+ students who have faced discrimination and are returning to school determined to take charge of their futures. A strong and uniting music program is what these students need to feel supported and confident. Thanks to Canada's Great Kitchen Party and MusiCounts, the students of Yorkdale Secondary School have access to the recording and production equipment needed to find their voices, both literally and figuratively.



## IMPACT



## Broadacres Junior School

### Toronto, ON

#### REQUEST

Broadacres Junior School plans to buy instruments to create a full band program with all of the instruments covered: brass, woodwind, and percussion. The students will choose what instrument they would like to learn how to play. Allowing them to have a voice in their learning.

#### NEED & BACKGROUND

This Band program will be for all the Grade 5 students at the school who are in 1 of 3 streams (English regular, Gifted regular, and French Immersion). The school received Itinerant hours but no instruments. BAJs needs to purchase 60-80 instruments (one for every student) in order to be able to provide their fifth graders a proper concert music education. Many of the students will move on to a school in grade 6 that has a very large music program. Without this program they will fall behind their new peers in their next educational chapter. Broadacres community is very diverse and can not afford to start an instrumental extra-curricular program outside of the school. Roughly 60% of the student population is part of the BIPOC community, 20% identify with either a physical or mental disability, and 60% are from low-income families; without this music program to unite these students, their socioeconomic, racial, and language differences are drastically driving them apart. Their introduction to instruments needs to happen at school as it will not occur out in the community. Thanks to Canada's Great Kitchen Party and MusiCounts, the students of Broadacres Junior School will have the opportunity to experience, learn, and connect to music with their peers.



## IMPACT



## Princes of Wales Public School

### Belleville, ON

#### REQUEST

Prince of Wales Public School is requesting pitched and unpitched percussion that is easily sanitized to be shared among the maximum number of students, safely. The aim will be to bolster their junior music program to entice the primary students and continue deep learning for the intermediate students.

#### NEED & BACKGROUND

The primary years (grades K-2) are filled with song, singing a variety of genres. The intermediate students (grades 3-6) meet for music class weekly which focus on mixed percussion ensembles. Unfortunately, the senior students (grades 7 & 8) have lost hands-on music opportunities, but still have fond memories of their early years. With 95% of the students coming from low-income families, PWPS must provide their students with musical opportunities as they are non-existent in the community. Bolstering the program with new instruments would allow students to continue to build their skills and increase the depth of their learning. Prince of Wales is nestled in the middle of the city surrounded by 9 Ontario Housing Complexes with BIPOC students in every classroom. Many students who were marginalized by poverty, systemic racism and trauma blossomed right away with music class. Parents who did not prioritize school, came to every performance their child was in. Music made school important and helped change the trajectory and created a sense of community. Students are drawn to creativity and dig into the hard work and collaboration. Thanks to Canada's Great Kitchen Party and MusiCounts, the students of Prince of Wales have been guaranteed the opportunity to further explore, develop, and unite through music.



## IMPACT



## Lester B. Pearson Elementary

### Saskatoon, SK

#### REQUEST

Lester B. Pearson Elementary is requesting funds for Traditional Knowledge Keepers & Elder honorariums for Drum Making & Drum Group, drum making kits with authentic materials (birch trees, deer hides, tool rentals, etc.) and transportation, and band instrument rental fees and instrument purchases.

#### NEED & BACKGROUND

LBPE's music department is allocated \$489 for the year. With 300 students in music, that is \$1.63 per student. This school is on Treaty 6 Territory, the traditional lands of the Plains Cree and Metis people. Having instruments to learn about culture, music theory, ear training, and make cross curricular connections will create healthy, stable, well-rounded students. Most of their students are from BIPOC, low-income, or new Canadian/ refugee communities and would greatly benefit from removing barriers denying them music. LBPE is located on the North West side of Saskatoon and try to provide barrier-free programming for at-risk youth who reside in poverty. Students, K- 8, will be able to participate and learn about the local Indigenous tradition and culture through song and drumming. LBPE wishes to complete these three initiatives:

- 1) Students will make their own traditional drum to keep and use to participate in Traditional Indigenous Culture.
- 2) Enlist the support of Elders and Knowledge Keepers to have a weekly Drum Program.
- 3) Waive rental fees for students who cannot afford to access band instruments and gift instruments to deserving students who show potential.

Thanks to Canada's Great Kitchen Party and MusiCounts, Lester B. Pearson Elementary can accomplish their goals and bring joy and music to their students.

# THANK YOU

Thank you for your generosity and for believing in importance of music education in Canada. Because of Canada's Great Kitchen Party, MusiCounts can make our vision a reality.

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