THE McCAIN FOUNDATION



Image: Plaister Cliffs, NS, Protected by Nova Scotia Nature Trust

Annual Giving Report Fiscal 2026

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Trans Canada Trail at Signal Hill, St. John's NL

A Message from Our Chairperson

The McCain Foundation reached significant milestones and achievements this past year. With a record number of grant applications received and reviewed, we supported more organizations than ever before and put almost every dollar in our $6M annual budget to use. Approved grants in F26 totaled $5,963,997 and supported 94 organizations doing charitable work in our communities.

With a careful review and update of the Foundation's mission and values, much of our work focused on supporting the regions that are home to McCain Foods production facilities in Canada. Outreach is ongoing and we continue to form relationships with local community foundations to better understand the needs in Coaldale, Alberta and in Carberry and Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. In New Brunswick, the Foundation board visited our plant operations in Grand Falls and met with the McCain Foods' team as well as charitable stakeholders. The visit resulted in new opportunities to support local needs and an improved level of awareness of the McCain Foundation in the community.

The Foundation made a meaningful, legal change in our ability to grant not only to registered charities, but also, to rural non-profits doing charitable work in our regions. As we begin work on a new strategic project in the coming year, this will allow us the flexibility to support more people and organizations that have the capacity to put plans to action. Further details about the strategic project can be found in this report.

We also share a few highlights from our F26 grants that went to organizations whose work we are honoured and proud to support. As in years past, the Foundation invested in a wide variety of sectors and provinces. Grant recipients include small organizations doing grass-roots work and large, ambitious projects that have lasting impact throughout Atlantic Canada and beyond.

As my first year as Chairperson concludes, I wish to thank my fellow Board members and all McCain Foods' shareholders, for supporting the Foundation's important work in our home communities. It is a privilege to support the people and organizations dedicated to helping others in our region. Thank you!

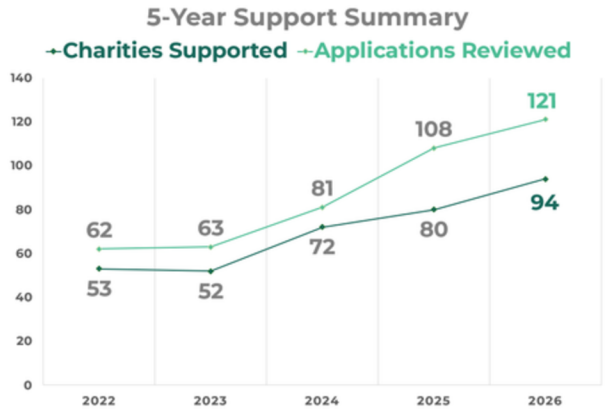
Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Johnston

Kaitlyn Johnston
Chairperson,
The McCain Foundation

2026 Highlights

GEARING UP FOR GREATER IMPACT



In Fiscal 2026, The McCain Foundation **reviewed and approved grants to more organizations than ever before** (91 charities and 3 non-profits across Canada). More than 120 grant applications were reviewed at grant meetings this past year, with an additional 68 assessed in advance. With Canadians and government budgets forecasted to face continued economic pressure in the year ahead, this trend is expected to continue.

Several important changes to the Foundation's grantmaking supported this increased activity. First, the Foundation implemented a **new grant management system** (Good Grants). This tool improves the quality of grant applications by providing greater capacity for applicants to tell their story, allowing for video and document sharing, impact reporting, and historical grant tracking. All relevant applicant information can be reviewed online and is stored in one central location. Questions about applications prior to decision-making can be addressed. The system allows for grant discussions that are more efficient and more focused.

Another big change for the Foundation was the **expansion of its capacity to make grants** that, for the first time, extend beyond registered charities **to include non-profit organizations** working on charitable projects. Many volunteer-based and small non-profits do not have resources to meet Canada Revenue Agency's requirements to file and operate as registered charities. Rural communities, in particular, are often supported by these smaller non-profit groups. The capacity to support non-profits enables The McCain Foundation to better support the rural plant communities that are the focus of our granting activity.

Grantmaking to non-profit organizations that are not registered charities requires the Foundation to undertake new levels of review and tracking. For this reason, the Foundation's open application process remains focused on registered charities, but the Foundation will proactively look for opportunities to support non-profits that align with it's mission. The first three grants to non-profit organizations were made towards the end of F26 to organizations providing support in rural communities in New Brunswick.

The McCain Foundation's first three grants to local non-profit organizations.







Innovations in Health Care

ADVANCING RESEARCH AND SURGICAL CARE



Cardiac surgeons at the NB Heart Centre

Several of The McCain Foundation's largest grants in F26 were focused on improving health care outcomes with investments in patient-centered research and advanced medical technology.

The largest of these was a $1.5M three-year commitment (approved in F25) to the **Saint John Regional Hospital**, New Brunswick's largest tertiary care hospital and provider of specialized health services to residents of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The Foundation's grant will help fund surgical equipment for a hybrid operating room (Hybrid OR) for cardiac surgeons working in the New Brunswick Heart Centre. A Hybrid OR is an advanced surgical suite that equips a traditional operating room with imaging equipment, allowing surgeons to access digital imagery in real-time so that surgery is faster, more precise, and less invasive.

The Foundation also provided support for a Hybrid OR at the **Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital** where its new operating suite will be used for vascular surgeries, cancer biopsies, and other image-guided surgeries.


Precision medicine research at the Terry Fox Research Institute

Advances in cardiac surgery at the **Chinook Regional Hospital** in Lethbridge were also supported by a McCain Foundation contribution to the hospital's $30M expansion of cardiac care services for southern Albertans. These investments enable more patients to receive advanced heart care closer to home rather than travelling to Calgary or other urban centres for treatment.

On the research front, The McCain Foundation joined a nation-wide effort to advance cancer research led by the **Terry Fox Research Institute** and fueled by a national campaign that has raised more than $70M in F26. Researchers, working across Canada, are working together to tailor treatment plans to the biology of each patient's cancer by combining genomic sequencing, powered by AI-driven analytics, and data from more than 100,000 participating cancer patients. The Institute's collaborative research and data-sharing approach will allow precision medicine to become a standard of care for cancer patients across Canada.

The McCain Foundation's investment supporting this national effort was directed towards the Atlantic Canadian research team who are already at work developing precision medical treatments for cancer patients in the region.

Protecting Natural Spaces

ENSURING A BETTER TOMORROW



Atlantic Water Network water sampling



Trans Canada Trail in Prince Edward Island



NS Nature Trust volunteers at shore clean-up

In F26, six organizations received McCain Foundation grants to protect natural environments across Canada, three for the first time.*

The Atlantic Water Network (AWN) received their first McCain Foundation grant to support an initiative focused on strengthening community-based water monitoring across the Wolastoq/Saint John River Watershed, an important ecological and iconic river that stretches across New Brunswick. The project engaged 86 volunteers from 47 organizations and established two equipment banks to support water monitoring along the watershed. Community volunteers helped collect reliable water-quality data, supported freshwater stewardship initiatives, and contributed to the long-term health and resilience of waterways across the region.

The McCain Foundation's funding to the **Trans Canada Trail (TCT) Foundation** supports high-priority projects across Atlantic Canada that will expand access to the region's natural landscapes. Atlantic Canada is home to more than 5,100 kilometers of Trans Canada Trail, featuring world-class destinations such as the Fundy Footpath (NB), Harvest Moon Trailway (NS), Newfoundland T'Railway, and Confederation Trail (PEI). The grant enables TCT staff and volunteers to close trail gaps, rehabilitate aging infrastructure, and enhance trail safety and accessibility.

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust received Foundation support for its newest conservation campaign, *In Our Nature,* launched in June 2025. The campaign will accelerate the protection of the province's most ecologically significant and vulnerable natural areas that are under increasing threats from climate change, habitat loss, and biodiversity decline. This initiative represents one of Atlantic Canada's most significant private-land conservation initiatives with a goal of protecting 20% of Nova Scotia's natural landscapes, the largest provincial protection effort to date.

$2,464,880

for environmental protection since the Foundation's inception

*Additional first-time grant recipients protecting natural spaces in F26 included the **Surfrider Foundation Canada** and **Manitoba Watersheds**. **The Island Nature Trust** also received a grant this year.

The Magic of Summer Camp

ACCESS FOR ALL

The McCain Foundation supported summer camps in four provinces this year. Historically, the Foundation has provided more than $2.5M to educational and recreational camp programs in McCain communities. This year, eight charities received Foundation grants for summer camp programs.

2026 marks the tenth year that The McCain Foundation has supported children with medical conditions to attend camp at **Brigadoon Village**, a special place welcoming kids from across Atlantic Canada. Each week of camp is devoted to children with specific illnesses or conditions giving them a place to be with other kids who face the similar challenges. A few examples include Camp Silly-Yak for children with celiac disease, Camp Whatcha Say (deaf or hard of hearing), Camp Treasure Chest (asthma and lung conditions) or Camp Lots-a-Wata (kidney disease) to name just a few. Over the past decade, McCain Foundation grants to Brigadoon have exceeded $500k giving more than 390 kids a chance to attend camp.

In Greenhill, NB, the Foundation supported **Camp Maple Leaf**, a camp for children of military veterans and first responders. **Camp Canak**, also in New Brunswick, provides summer camp programs for children with disabilities with McCain Foundation funding.

In Alberta, grants for camp programs were provided to **Kids Cancer Care AB**, for children battling cancer and to **4-H Alberta** for leadership and land camps.

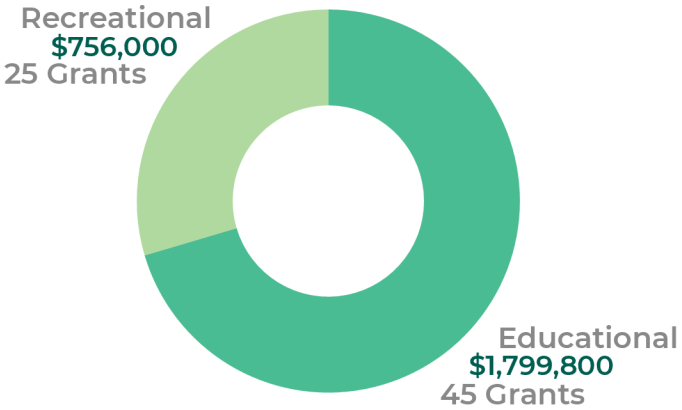
Grants for educational programs in F26 were made to **Actua** and **Shad** for enriched STEM programs and to **Catapult Leadership**, a summer camp for high school students with natural leadership skills but whose life circumstances have presented barriers to achieving their potential.



Campers at Brigadoon Village, Aylesford NS.

McCain Foundation Historic Grants to Summer Camp Programs

$2,555,800



2026 Grant Recipients

In Fiscal 2026, The McCain Foundation approved 94 grants to charitable organizations, the largest amount in its history. Fund distributed totaled $5,963,997. The following organizations received support from The Foundation.

4-H Alberta, AB
12 Neighbours Community, NB
Acadia University, NS
*Actua, ON
Ag in the Classroom, MB
Alberta Cancer Foundation, AB
Alice House, NS
Atlantic Water Network, NS
Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada, NB
Big Brothers Big Sisters Carleton York, NB
Brandon Seniors for Seniors Co-op, MB
Boys and Girls Club of Summerside, PE
Boys and Girls Club of Moncton, NB
*Breakfast Clubs of Canada, QC
Brigadoon Village, NS
Camp Canak, NB
*Camp Tanamakoon Foundation, NB
Canadian Cancer Society, NB
Carberry Plains Museum, MB
Catapult Leadership, NS
Chalmers Hospital Foundation, NB
Chinook Hospital Foundation, AB
Compassionate Grief Centre, NB
Confederation Arts Centre, PE
Crescentview School, MB
Crossroads for Women, NB
Dalhousie University, NS
*Do More Agriculture Foundation, SK
*Drug Free Kids Canada, ON
Ducks Unlimited, NB
*Earth Rangers, ON
Farm Centre Association, PE
Federation of Canadian Music Festivals, NB
First Step Housing, NB
Fort Whyte Alive, MB
Fredericton Botanic Garden, NB
Fredericton Homeless Shelters, NB
Friends of Taber Literacy Association, AB
Gaia Project, NB
Greater Fredericton Social Innovation, NB
Habitat for Humanity Manitoba, MB
Health Sciences Centre Foundation, MB
High Bluff Community Club, MB
*Hope Air, ON
Hospice Fredericton, NB
Imperial Theatre, NB
Island Nature Trust, PE
Junior Achievement New Brunswick, NB
Junior Achievement PEI, PE
*Kids Help Phone, ON
Kids Up Front Foundation, AB
Kids Cancer Care, AB
Kingsbrae International Residence for the Arts, NB
*Kinvia, ON
Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization, AB
Lions Foundation Manitoba, MB
*Make-a-Wish Foundation Canada, ON
Manitoba Association of Watersheds, MB
Miramichi Hospital Foundation, NB
Nature Trust of New Brunswick, NB
New Brunswick Copes, NB
New Brunswick Federation of Music Festivals, NB
New Brunswick Museum, NB
New Brunswick SPCA, NB
New Brunswick Youth Orchestra, NB
Portage Atlantic, NB
Prince County Hospital Foundation, PE
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Foundation, PE
*Right to Food, ON
Ronald McDonald House Charities Atlantic, NS
Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation, NB
Saint John Theatre Company, NB
Samaritan House Ministries, MB
Sanctuary House, NB
*Scientists in School, ON
*Shad Canada, ON
Shelter Movers, NB
Solo Chicken Productions, NB
Struts Gallery, NB
*Surfrider Foundation Canada, BC
Symphony Nova Scotia, NS
*Team Rubicon, ON
*Terry Fox Foundation, ON
Theatre New Brunswick, NB
*Trans Canada Trail Foundation, ON
*United for Literacy, ON
Upper Room Hospitality Ministries (PEI Food Bank), PE
Valley Food Bank, NB
Valley Regional Hospital Foundation, NS
*Veteran Transition Network, BC
Western Manitoba Science fair, MB
YWCA Fredericton, NB
YMCA Southwest New Brunswick, NB
Youth Impact Jeunesse, NB

* Grants to these organizations support programming in McCain communities in Atlantic Canada, or across Canada.

94 grants include 11 **pledge payments**. In F26, 121 proposals were **reviewed** at quarterly Board meetings of which 83 were **approved**. An additional 68 applications were **rejected** prior to Board meetings.

By the Numbers

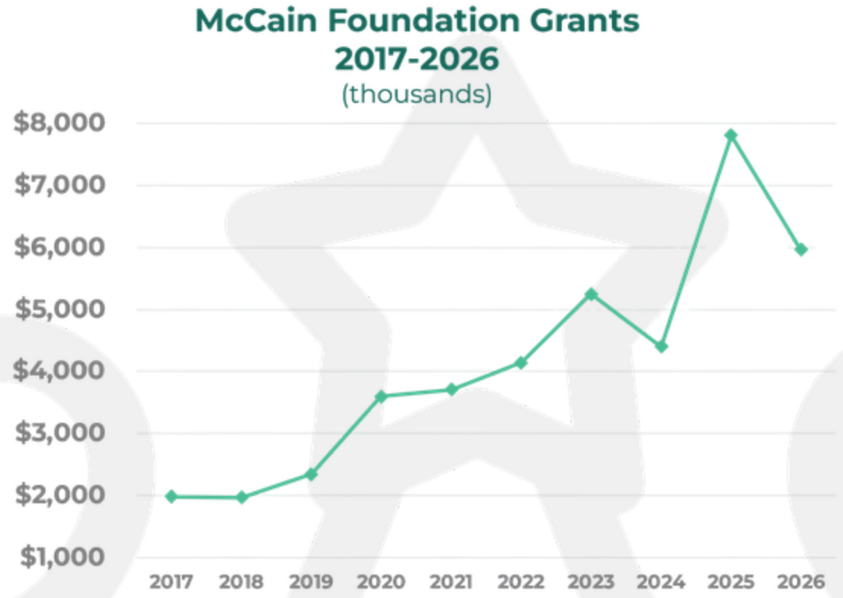
The McCain Foundation is one of the largest foundations with a focus on Atlantic Canada where less than 5% of total Canadian foundation grants are allocated each year. In recent years, the Foundation's granting activity has increased significantly with more than $43M distributed in the past decade. The F26 granting budget was $6M of which $5,963,997 was allocated. F25 grants included carry over funds from F24.

F26 grants totaled **$5,963,997**

Total giving since inception in 1993 exceed **$70M**

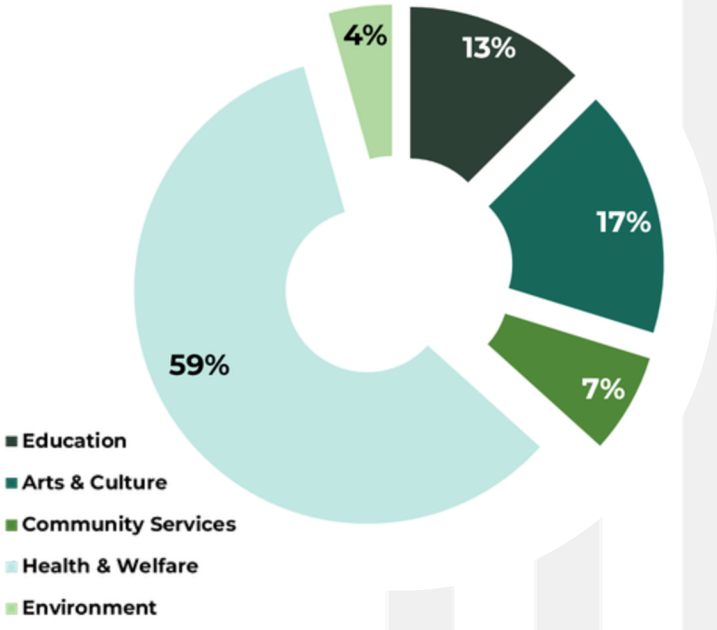
In recent decades...

1997-2006	=	**$11.4M**
2007-2016	=	**$15.4M**
2017-2026	=	**$43.1M**



F26 Grants by Sector

In F26, the largest portion of The McCain Foundation's granting dollars was allocated to health and welfare needs. This is a consistent pattern reflecting the large number of requests from charities in this sector that support essential infrastructure and services. The Foundation does not set allocations according to sector. Granting decisions are based on priority community needs that align with the Foundation's values and eligibility criteria as presented by the charitable organizations requesting support.



Health & Welfare
$3,513,585
44 Grants

Environment
$261,900
10 Grants

Arts & Culture
$1,028,512
13 Grants

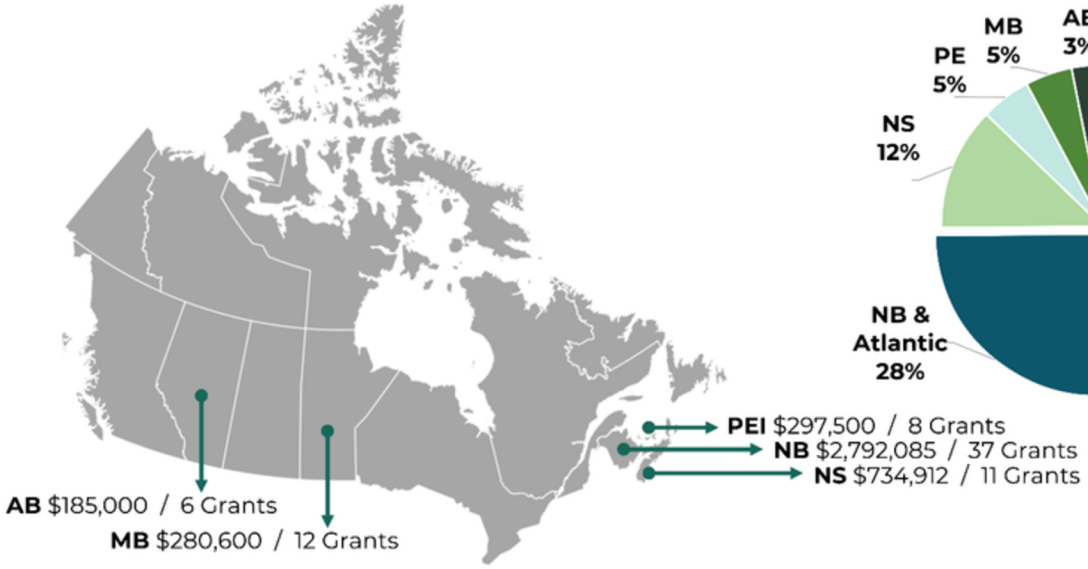
Education
$747,500
12 Grants

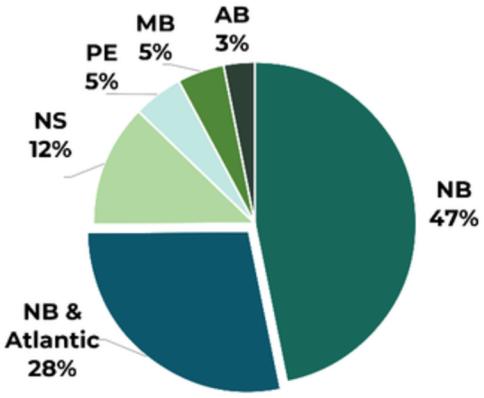
Community Services
$412,500
15 Grants

By the Numbers

F26 Grant Distribution

The McCain Foundation is one of only a small number of Canadian Foundations that focuses its granting activity in Atlantic Canada and accepts requests from charitable organizations working in a wide variety of sectors. Over the past decade, annual grants have more than tripled, making The McCain Foundation one of the largest donors in the Atlantic region. National charities that are supported by the Foundation most often receive grants for programs and projects that impact the Foundation's geographic scope.





F26 Grants by Size

The McCain Foundation provides grants of all sizes, supporting large projects, with lead gifts and multi-year pledges, as well as moderate requests from smaller charities and grassroots organizations. This diverse mix enables the Foundation to support a wide variety of community needs each year. The Foundation has both long-standing and newly supported charities among its grant recipients. The logos below represent some of the newly supported charities in F26.

Small Grants
($10k or less)

22 Grants
Total: $179,412

Western Manitoba Science Fair
SOLO CHICKEN PRODUCTIONS
FortWhyte Alive

Medium Grants
($10k to $100k)

54 Grants
Total: $1,729,585

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION CANADA.
12 neighbours
Kids Up Front

Large Grants
($100k or more)

18 Grants
Total: $4,055,000

Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation
TERRY FOX FOUNDATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Sanctuary HOUSE

Granting Milestones

ALIGNMENT AND IMPACT

The McCain Foundation is proud to support well-managed charitable organizations that consistently demonstrate impact on issues that align with the Foundation's values and mission. This year, we celebrated several milestones with charities that have earned our long-standing support and continue to make a real difference in our communities.

Each charity celebrating a milestone with The McCain Foundation this year is focused on children living in our communities. These organizations provide food, enriched educational opportunities, access to medical supports, and summer camp programs for kids with unique needs.

Long-term relationships with our grantees provide **mutual benefits**.

For our charities, multi-year grants allow for long-range planning and program stability. They also help to build the organizational donor base allowing for capacity building, resiliency to government funding fluctuations, and greater societal impact.

The Foundation, through ongoing funding relationships, can better understand the work of the organizations it supports and provide opportunities for growth. These are charities with the capacity to have wide-spread impact by delivering programs in communities throughout Atlantic Canada or across Canada.

10 Years

McCain Kids' Table

$1,069,750

10 Years

Brigadoon Village

$545,000

30 Years

Hope Air

$763,500



The McCain Foundation has supported Hope Air for **30 of its 40 years**, allowing families like Theo's from Saint John, NB to travel over 1,500 km to Toronto for specialized care.

20 Years

Shad Canada

$819,800

30 Years

Kinvia *(Canadian Feed the Children)*

$1,176,000

Looking Ahead

BUILDING RURAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE


Potato field near Florenceville, NB

The McCain Foundation is ready to embark upon its next **strategic project**, a long-term initiative, beyond its quarterly grantmaking, that is intended to have a lasting impact. Aligned with the Foundation's commitment to McCain's rural communities, the strategic project envisions **six pillars of community investment** that contribute to community well-being starting in the District of Carleton North, New Brunswick, home of McCain Foods. At the outset, these pillars are intentionally broad with the potential to address diverse community needs. The strategic project will be informed by a Community Assessment already underway.

Pillars	Example Projects
Birth to School Readiness	Daycares, ECE, pediatric support
Supplemental Academic Excellence	Enhanced educational programs, technology supports, leadership development
Physical Recreation & Healthy Living	Playgrounds, sports fields, outdoor classrooms
Arts, Culture and Performance	Music and art programs, performance space, cultural events
Food Security & Community Wellness	School nutrition programs, greenhouses, community food program
Post-Secondary Pathways & Career Development	Work experience programs, linkages to post-secondary programs, skill upgrading


Florenceville, NB

The first phase of strategic project work is already underway - a **Comprehensive Community Assessment** with the support of **The Purposeful Group**, an Atlantic Canadian firm that brings expertise and experience to this work.

The objectives of the Community Assessment are not only to identify the priority needs and projects to build a healthier and more vibrant community, but also to identify the people and organizations to make it happen.

Community Assessment Project

A process to research community assets and needs, identify priority projects, and engage Carleton North citizens and stakeholders to help make lasting change.

Research — Engage — Support — Act

THE McCAIN FOUNDATION

The McCain Foundation has a deep appreciation for the communities that are home to McCain Foods production facilities in Canada.

The Foundation is focused on addressing challenges in these regions by supporting projects, both large and small, in the areas of arts and culture, community services, education, environment and health and welfare.



www.mccainfoundation.org

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Image: Wolastoq (Saint John) River, NB