
How to Form a Cultural group in Peterborough

The following are some useful steps you can take in forming a cultural group in Peterborough. You do not necessarily need to follow all of these steps, nor do they need to be done in any particular order.

1. Who are you?

Identify what will be the collective idea or background that will bring members of your cultural group together. Do you share an ethnic background or do you all like to paint sunflowers? Each cultural group needs to have a set belief or common interest that binds the group together. Do some research on the people you want to represent through your group. Also consider writing out a constitution for your group that clearly outlines your group's aims and goals.

2. Administration

There needs to be an administrative unit of people that co-ordinate the majority of the planning and inner workings of the cultural group. These people need to be very trustworthy, organized and dedicated to the well-being of your cultural group. Some positions that should be filled are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Reporter, Recruitment Officer, etc.

3. Registration

Cultural groups are not required to register with the city of Peterborough but are encouraged to let the city know they exist. This is so that your group can be added to the database of cultural groups in Peterborough.

4. Funding

Cultural groups in Peterborough are offered different funding opportunities from the City of Peterborough the Provincial and Federal Governments.

City Funding

Cultural organizations can apply for Community Project Grants (up to \$1,000 per year) and Community Investment Grants (up to \$15,000 per year) from the City of Peterborough but they must be incorporated to be eligible for the Investment Grants. In some cases, cultural organizations may be able to receive more than \$15,000 per year through Community Service Grants. For more information about these grants cultural groups should contact Cathy Gogo at 705-742-7777, ext 1822 or email cgogo@peterborough.ca.

Provincial and Federal Funding

There are countless grants available for cultural groups from the provincial and federal governments depending on what the group plans to do. This ranges from grants to help fund special events to grants to cover the costs of technical support.

For provincial grants, cultural groups are urged to call Lou O'Hara who is our local representative at the Ministry of Culture. His email address is Lou.OHara@ontario.ca and his phone number is [705-755-2628](tel:705-755-2628).

Federal grants to cultural organizations are administered by the Department of Canadian Heritage which does not have a local office in Peterborough. If cultural organizations are interested to find out which federal grants they may be eligible for, they should contact Peterborough's MP Dean Del Mastro. His office phone number is (705) 745-2108 and email is delmad@parl.gc.ca. His office located at 1875 Lansdowne Street West.

5. Publicity

A cultural group can only work if it has members to serve. Publicize your group through the use of flyers, social media, bulletin boards and word of mouth. You can also advertise your cultural group through Peterborough's cultural mapping project by contacting the city at 705-742-7777. The Peterborough Partnership Council on Immigrant Integration (PPCII) also keeps track of and advertises cultural groups in Peterborough. You can contact the PPCII at 705-743-0882, or info@ppcii.ca.

6. Congregating

In order for a group to function smoothly and efficiently it is encouraged that your group meet regularly. Popular meeting places in Peterborough are the Public Library and the basements of many of Peterborough's downtown Churches. At meetings, discuss current events, the inner workings of the group and other issues surrounding the culture your group represents. Resources such as mailing lists, which are a compilation of members email addresses, are an easy way to alert all group members of when a meeting is scheduled.

7. Outreach

While the main focus cultural organizations is to gather people with the same background together for support and organization, a secondary objective that cultural groups can fulfill is that of outreach and education in the wider community. If your group is new to the cultural fabric of Peterborough education of the community through the use of social events would be extremely beneficial in letting Peterborough know what your cultural group is all about. Examples of these social events include: gatherings with a guest speaker; talking about your culture; and, sharing your cultural food, dress and music.