

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Administration

Date: April 27, 2026

Subject: Business Façade Improvement Program 2026 – April Intake

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council approves the applications from Mackenzie Community Arts Centre, Mackenzie Community Services, and D Doolittle Pet Care to the Business Façade Improvement Program to a maximum amount of \$11,382.90

BACKGROUND:

The Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) approved the District of Mackenzie's application for \$20,000 in funding towards the Business Façade Improvement program on December 19, 2025. This funding is available to enhance economic development by encouraging private sector investment in business façade improvements.

The goal of the business façade improvement program is to beautify the commercial core and industrial area of Mackenzie and aid businesses in customer attraction. The District of Mackenzie (District) Business Façade Improvement Program will provide the following types of reimbursement grants:

- **Category 1:** 50% up to a maximum of \$5,000 per building/project within the façade improvement area, and;
- **Category 2:** 50% up to a maximum of \$500 for homebased business wayfinding signage.

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Staff advertised the program through the District's website, distributed one public notice in mailboxes, handed out flyers to business storefronts and posted ads on social media. Program information was distributed through the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce. Furthermore, staff took every opportunity to discuss the program with business owners during in-person casual conversations and meetings, as well as assisted with application development when requested.

2026 APPLICATIONS:

The three eligible project applications for consideration for the first intake is as follows:

Mackenzie Community Arts Centre

Project	Total Project Cost	Maximum Eligible Grant	Recommended Grant
Installation of Illuminated Sign	\$21,943.82	\$5,000	\$5,000

Mackenzie Community Arts Centre is a third-time applicant. This quote covers the full installation of an illuminated sign at the property located at 9 Laurier Drive. The sign is designed to accommodate additional panels for tenant and user group signage.

Before Photo



After Photo



Mackenzie Community Services

Project	Total Project Cost	Maximum Eligible Grant	Recommended Grant
Installation of Frosting/Etched Glass Vinyl	\$9,782.64	\$4891.58	\$4891.58

Mackenzie Community Services is a third-time applicant. This quote covers the full installation of frosting/etched glass vinyl at the property located at their new location at 600 Mackenzie Blvd units 1-3. This improvement will provide a welcoming and unified appearance as well as provide privacy and safety for staff and their clients.

Before Photo



After Photo



D Doolittle Pet Care

Project	Total Project Cost	Maximum Eligible Grant	Recommended Grant
Installation of Window Graphics	\$2,983.16	\$1,491.58	\$1,491.58

D Doolittle Pet Care is a second-time applicant. This quote covers the full installation of laminated decals to be applied to the side window of their new location at 220 Mackenzie Boulevard, Unit 1. The decals will feature images of pets that have been in the care of D Doolittle Pet Care.

Before Photo



After Photo



This wont be the exact image used, but going for a stylized version of photos of our pets that we have had in the store

NEXT STEPS:

If Council approves the above applications, there will be \$8,617.10 remaining to distribute in 2026. As funding will still be available, applications will continue to be accepted until July 15, 2026, to allow time for additional applications to be received.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

The District has been approved for \$20,000 in grant funding from the Northern Development Initiative Trust to support this program.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Economic Vitality

- The District is a leader on efforts aimed at diversifying the community's economy, supporting local businesses, and attracting new investment to the community. Diversification, a strong business sector and new investment are key to our economic vitality.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Rachelle Richman, Economic Development Coordinator

Reviewed By: Corporate and Financial Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer