



REQUEST FOR SUPPORT APPLICATION FORM

Date of Request	March 21, 2025
Organization/Group making the request	Italian Society Felice Cavallotti Lodge
Contact Person	Ian Cumpstone, President Cavallotti Lodge [REDACTED]
Address	2060 E Wellington Rd, Nanaimo, BC V9S 5V2
Telephone	(250) 753-1085
Email Address:	[REDACTED]
Type of Support Requested (Select one)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Letter of Support in Principle <input type="radio"/> In-Kind Contribution <input type="radio"/> Partnership <i>Note: This policy is not applicable to requests for grant funding by the City, including Permissive Tax Exemption requests, or in-kind funding for facility rentals (see Grants Policy and Guidelines for further details)</i>

IF APPLICABLE:

Name of grant or program for which you are applying:

Legacy Fund – Building Communities through Arts and Heritage _____

Amount of Funding Requested: \$500,000 Grant Due Date: May 1, 2025

Grant Organization: Canadian Heritage _____

Address: 200 Sacré-Cœur Boulevard _____

City: Gatineau, Postal Code: J8X 4C6 _____

Telephone: 819-997-0055 _____

Please provide an executive summary or short narrative that addresses each of the points outlined in the "Council Support policy". Include a draft letter, any supporting documents or materials and a detailed list of other funding partners (if applicable).

Please submit this form, with accompanying materials, to the attention of the Corporate Officer, Legislative Services, City of Nanaimo, 455 Wallace St. Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6, or by email to: legislative.servicesoffice@nanaimo.ca.

Respecting Your Privacy

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) – Information collected on this form is done so under the general authority of the *Community Charter* and FOIPPA, and is protected in accordance with FOIPPA. Personal information will only be used by authorized staff to fulfill the purpose for which it was originally collected, or for a use consistent with that purpose. For more information, please visit the Legislative Services Department at 455 Wallace Street, call 250-755-4405, or email foi@nanaimo.ca.

Executive Summary: Cavallotti Lodge Rebuilding Project

Organization Name: Italian Society Felice Cavallotti Lodge

Contact Person: Ian Cumpstone

Mailing Address: 2060 E Wellington Rd, Nanaimo, BC V9S 5V2

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (250) 753-1085

Background Information

The Cavallotti Lodge Society began in 1900 as a mutual aid society for the Italian immigrant mining community and has evolved to become a cornerstone of cultural exchange, community building, and charitable engagement on Vancouver Island. For 125 years, the Lodge has provided a welcoming space for individuals to come together, celebrate shared experiences, and contribute to community betterment. The Lodge serves as a central gathering place for people from all walks of life, including Indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, and residents of all backgrounds. It has become an important venue for cultural celebrations, educational programs, and civic events, hosting Indigenous ceremonies, cultural festivals, local charity fundraisers, and community outreach programs.

Funding Sources

We are applying to the Legacy Fund – Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage Program (BCAH) for \$500,000, which is the maximum grant amount. The total project cost is approximately \$3 million. Funding will come from the Cavallotti Lodge through the sale of land (\$2,330,000), potential BCAH grant (\$500,000), and local sponsorship (\$170,000).

Services to be Offered

The new lodge will provide:

- A venue where Italian heritage, traditions, and customs are preserved
- A gathering space for a diverse range of cultural celebrations, performances, and heritage activities
- Community space for intergenerational knowledge sharing and cultural education
- Accessibility features to ensure participation by all community members
- Dedicated spaces for workshops, art exhibits, cultural performances, and meetings
- Sustainable, eco-friendly infrastructure reducing environmental impact

Target Groups and Service Location

The new Cavallotti Lodge will serve the entire Nanaimo community, regardless of ethnicity, sexuality, religion, or abilities. The services will be offered at the new Lodge facility, which will be built next to the existing structure in Nanaimo. Specific target groups include:

- Local Indigenous communities
- Various ethnic and cultural groups
- Arts and cultural organizations
- Community groups and non-profits
- Residents with mobility challenges and disabilities

Timeframe

The project timeline coincides with the Lodge's 125th anniversary in 2025. Key milestones include:

- January 2025: Submit Legacy Fund application
- May 2025: Complete architectural plans and engineering documents
- May-August 2025: Secure necessary permits and approvals
- September 2025: Finalize contractor agreements and construction schedule
- October 2025: Site preparation and groundbreaking ceremony
- November 2025: Begin construction to commemorate the 125th anniversary
- Late 2026: Projected completion and grand opening of new facility

Anticipated Outcomes

1. Creation of a fully accessible, modern community cultural center
2. Increased capacity to host diverse cultural and heritage events
3. Enhanced opportunities for cross-cultural exchange and understanding
4. Preservation and celebration of Italian-Canadian heritage alongside other cultural traditions
5. Improved accessibility allowing participation by all community members
6. Sustainable infrastructure supporting community needs for decades to come

Proposed Budget

Total Project Budget: \$3,000,000

- Construction: \$2,550,000 (@\$300 per sq. foot for 8,500 sq. ft.)
- Drawings/plans/fees/permits: \$250,000
- Landscaping: \$100,000
- Furniture and Appliances: \$100,000
- **Total Expenses: \$3,000,000**

Coordination with Other Entities

The project involves coordination with:

1. Local Indigenous groups who have been consulted on the building design to meet their cultural activity needs
2. Local construction companies
3. Local arts and cultural groups
4. Ethnic communities
5. Civic leaders
6. We hope to involve the Vancouver Island University Trade Apprentice Program in some aspects of this project. This will provide these students with educational work experience

The coordinated approach ensures the new Lodge will serve diverse community needs while providing valuable opportunities for learning and growth.

March 21, 2025

Legacy Fund

Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage Program

Department of Canadian Heritage

RE: Letter of Support for Cavallotti Lodge Rebuilding Project - Legacy Fund Application

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the City of Nanaimo, I am pleased to provide this letter of strong support for the Italian Society Felice Cavallotti Lodge's application to the Legacy Fund under the Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage program.

The Cavallotti Lodge has been a significant cultural landmark in our community since 1900. As the Lodge approaches its 125th anniversary in 2025, this rebuilding project represents a meaningful way to commemorate this milestone while ensuring the Lodge continues to serve as a gathering place that celebrates and preserves cultural heritage while fostering cross-cultural understanding and community connection.

The current Lodge is aging and inaccessible for people with mobility issues. The proposed rebuilding project aligns perfectly with our municipality's strategic plan for community development, cultural preservation, and accessibility. The new Lodge will:

- Provide an improved, larger venue for cultural celebrations, performances, and heritage activities
- Create accessible community space for intergenerational knowledge sharing and cultural education
- Enhance opportunities for diverse community members to engage with various cultural traditions
- Serve as a gathering place for local Indigenous groups who regularly use the hall for cultural activities
- Strengthen community bonds through shared cultural experiences
- Continue its preservation of Italian heritage, customs, and traditions

We recognize that the Lodge has long been a cherished part of the Nanaimo community, known for being a welcoming and inclusive gathering spot for people from all walks of life. The City of Nanaimo values the Lodge's commitment to inclusivity—regardless of ethnicity, sexuality, religion, or abilities—providing a safe and supportive environment where everyone is treated with respect and kindness.

Our municipality acknowledges that this significant \$3 million project represents an important investment in our community's cultural infrastructure. We believe the requested funding of \$500,000 from the Legacy Fund would be well-utilized for this project which exemplifies the objectives of the Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage program.

The City of Nanaimo strongly encourages you to give this application your most favorable consideration. Should you require any additional information regarding the Municipality's support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

(Official Contact information)