



October 2024

Funding Support Request for Inclusive Playground at Marion Carson Elementary School

I am reaching out on behalf of Marion Carson Elementary School in Calgary, a vibrant, diverse learning community in the Varsity area, with a heartfelt request to support our fundraising efforts for an inclusive new playground. Our current playground has provided many years of joy but has now reached the end of its life. On top of this, the current playground is not accessible, nor inclusive, thus the current playground excludes the children in the school who have mobility and/or sensory needs. We need your help to create a safe and accessible space for all of our students.

School Background:

Marion Carson Elementary is home to 503 students from kindergarten to grade 6. The school has both a Community English program for the Varsity neighborhood and a Mandarin Bilingual program that began in September 2014 and currently serves grades K-4.

Our student body reflects the diversity of our city, with 46.97% of our students speaking English as an additional language. We take pride in the fact that our school community represents 27 different home languages and serves students from 30 Calgary communities.

At Marion Carson, we believe that “Diversity is our strength, and learning is not just academics; it involves collaboration, communication, and building an understanding of the world around us.” This belief is central to our motto, *Learning Together, Friends Forever*, and guides our approach to education.

We are seeking to raise \$450,000 for a new inclusive playground that can accommodate our diverse student needs and foster an environment where every child can play, learn, and grow together. Our goal is to create a space that is safe, accessible, and enjoyable for all, regardless of language or ability.

An inclusive playground would offer tremendous benefits not only to our school but also to the broader community. It will provide a place where children can engage in physical activity, develop social skills, and make lasting friendships. We believe this new playground will help us uphold our values and make a positive impact on the lives of our students and their families.

Need for funding support:

In Alberta, the government provides funding to support the building of schools but does not provide funding for playgrounds. Consequently, this falls on the parents who have children attending the school to seek out the funding to build a playground.

Our playground committee is seeking partnerships to secure funding to build an inclusive playground that will create a safe space where all children with diverse abilities can play without barriers.

Though play is a fundamental human right that is essential for healthy physical development and brain development in children, when a playground is built that excludes children with disabilities, it creates barriers and isolation.

The timeline for this project is for the playground to be fully funded and installed in the summer of 2025 if we can raise enough funds by spring 2025.

Budget: \$450,000

We are seeking support from community businesses and organizations who are able to donate to this project.

Any amount is welcome and appreciated. You will be given a charity tax receipt for your donation from Variety – the Children’s Charity.

Donations can be made via cheque to:

Variety – the Children’s Charity of Alberta
1517, 246 Stewart Green SW
Calgary AB T3H 3C8

Note: Please add “Funds for Marion Carson Playground” on the cheque.

or

Online at <https://varietyalberta.ca/give/> and choose Marion Carson School in the drop down list. If payment is made online, you will be issued a tax receipt immediately.

Recognition:

We will have a donor recognition sign in the playground that will showcase your organization name in support of this project.

We appreciate your consideration with this outreach and recognition that our children matter and need your support!

For further information please feel free to contact either of the below:

Marion Carson Project Group:

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Playground Lead for the Marion Carson Inclusive Playground Project
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Variety – the Children’s Charity of Alberta Contact:

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