

May 20, 2024

Funding Support Request for School Inclusive Playground at Marion Carson School (Calgary, AB)

Marion Carson School in Calgary provides quality education to students in the community of Varsity and the surrounding area. The students at Marion Carson school represent a wide range of cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds, all working together towards a common goal: all students can succeed.

Marion Carson school currently supports students from kindergarten to grade 6 and has been working hard over the past year to increase its accessibility features. We have added a ramp, an elevator, an automatic door, and now need to make sure our outdoor space is equally accessible for all students. With our current playground coming up for renewal anyways, this is the perfect time to add this critical element to our school space.

Our school has about 550 students, including children who are neuro-diverse or have mobility limitations. To our knowledge, there are no accessible playgrounds within walking distance of our school, so this would fill a great need, both for the school and the greater Varsity community.

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. For a group of parent volunteers, the task of raising the hundreds of thousands of dollars required to build a playground is extremely daunting!

We have been working hard to seek out partnerships and to secure funding to build an inclusive playground that will create a safe space where all children with diverse abilities can play without barriers.

Project Overview

The goal of the Marion Carson School Playground Project is to:

- Remove the current, ready-to-expire, non-inclusive, and very small playground
- Build a bigger playground that is appropriate for a growing school population that is truly inclusive, including sensory walls, ramps, and accessible games.

Sample playground renderings/Preliminary Playground Planning Designs:

Sample Post and Platform Playground:



The timeline for this project is for the playground to be fully funded and installed in the summer of 2026.

Budget: \$400,000-\$450,000

Funding Request and Additional Support Needs:

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 Kensington 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:

Donors will be recognized in our school and community publications, as well as our donor board that will be displayed in the playground.

In addition, if you request, we will include your support on our social media and website and keep you engaged with our progression with funds and as we create a timeline for playground install.

Thank you for 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 Playground Project Group:

Tracy Oh

Playground Lead for the Marion Carson Playground Project

Email: mcschoolcouncil@gmail.com

Variety – the Children’s Charity of Alberta Contact:

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