

# Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant Application for 2023/2024 - "Cultural Connections through Food: Strengthening Community."

Dear Members of the PRO Grant Committee,

I am Les Robinson, Chair of the Cairine Wilson Secondary School (CWSS) School Council, and I am pleased to submit our application for the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant for the 2023-2024 school year. This year, our proposed project, the **"Cultural Connections through Food: Strengthening Community,"** aims to build on the success of our previous grant-funded initiative and continues to address anti-racism, cultural inclusivity, and food sovereignty within our school community.

## Project Overview:

**Project Name:** Cultural Connections through Food: Strengthening Community

**Expected Start Date:** Thursday, April 9, 2024 (note: dates coincide with Eid-al-Fitr; Pesach and Ridvan)

**Expected End Date:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024 (Indigenous culture focused day, no faith based days in the multi-faith calendar for this semester.)

## Eligibility Criteria Alignment:

- Projects demonstrate dedication to combating racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Semitism, and anti-Indigenous racism.
- Projects create a sense of belonging by acknowledging and valuing parents'/caregivers' identities.
- Projects respect parents'/caregivers as co-collaborators, embedding their identities in the curriculum.
- Projects contribute to raising awareness around local food production and sustainable skills.

## Project Participants:

- **Classes Involved:** FOODS classes, ASD, DDP, Grade 11 Environmental Science, and Grade 9 Science classes.
- **Staff Involvement:** Brigitte Cusson, Andrew McCrae, Rosetta Sciortino.
- **Facilitator/Speaker:** To be determined based on funding success and community engagement.

## Anticipated Participants:

- **Number of Participants:** approx. 160 (3 food classes, DDP, ASD, Grade 11 Environmental Science and Grade 9 Science classes )

## Project Goals:

1. Increase student compassion and understanding of Indigenous, Jewish, and Black cultures through food.
2. Raise awareness of diverse food options in the community.
3. Foster a sense of belonging by acknowledging and valuing parents'/caregivers' identities.

## **Project Objectives:**

- Bring Indigenous, Black, and Jewish parents/caregivers/elders to share personal experiences and culture around food.
- Enable students to cook culturally significant dishes with guidance from presenters.
- Engage DDP and ASD classes in planting and growing foods for future project sustainability.

## **Intended Outcomes:**

1. Strengthen visibility, awareness, and compassion for racialized/minoritized cultures.
2. Expand students' cooking skills and knowledge of diverse cultures.
3. Enhance the connection of parents/caregivers/elders to the school community.

## **Evaluation:**

- **Methods:** Surveys with quantitative and qualitative questions for students, teachers, and community representatives.
- **Facilitator/Speaker Cost:** \$300 (Three speakers at \$100 each for the project's duration).

## **Budget Breakdown:**

- **Materials:** \$350 (Food and cooking supplies for food classes), \$100 (Seed packets for DDP and ASD classes).
- **Facilitator/Speaker:** \$300.

## **Total Project Cost: \$750**

## **Conclusion:**

We believe that the "**Cultural Connections through Food**" project aligns seamlessly with the goals and criteria outlined in the PRO Grant. The success of our previous initiatives and the continued collaboration between School Council members, staff, and the broader community highlight our commitment to creating an inclusive and culturally rich environment at CWSS.

Thank you for considering our application. We look forward to the opportunity to further enhance our school community through this meaningful project.

Sincerely,

Les Robinson  
Chair, CWSS School Council  
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