

# Beautiful Plains Community Foundation

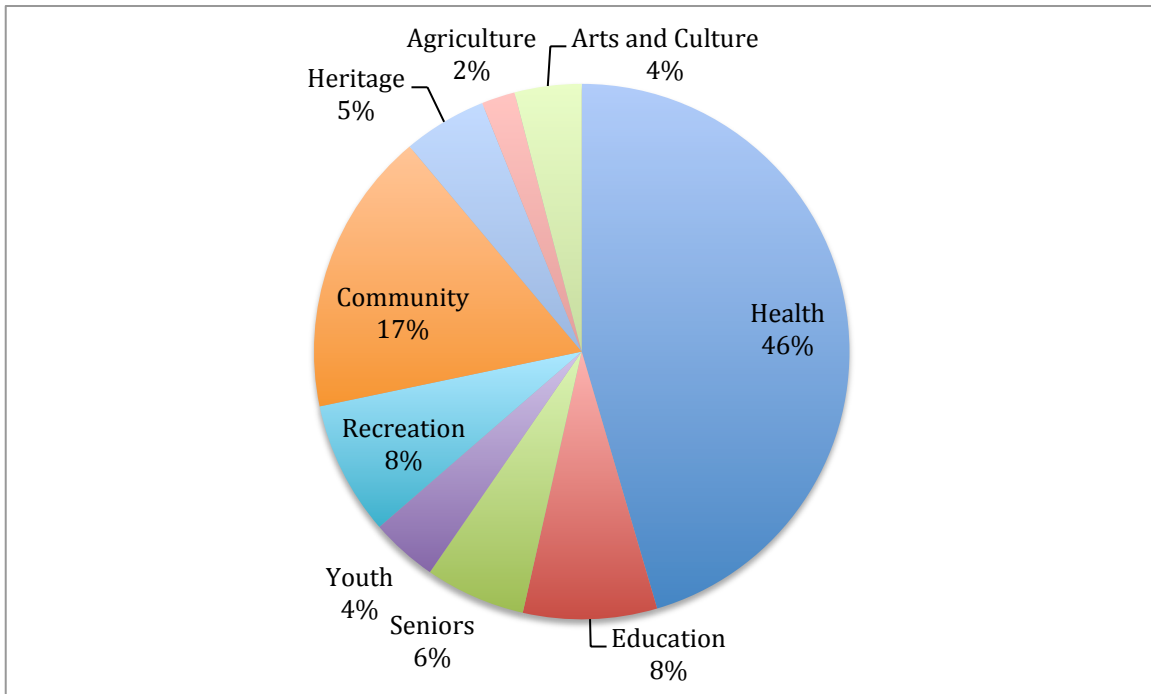
The Beautiful Plains Community Foundation was incorporated in 1995, supported through financial support from the Thomas Sill Foundation. Located in Neepawa, population 3,629, the foundation is driven by its rural values. The Beautiful Plains Community Foundation is committed to serving the people of the Rural Municipality of Lansdowne, Rural Municipality of Langford, Rural Municipality of Rosedale, Glenella, Brookdale, as well as Neepawa. The total population served by the Beautiful Plains Community Foundation is approximately 8,500 in a land area of 2,721 square kilometers (Statistics Canada, 2013).

The population of Neepawa and the surrounding communities has gradually increased over the past fifteen years. In 1996, the community had a population of 3,301. In 2001, this number had increased by 0.7% to 3,325. Although there was a slight decline of 0.8% in 2006 down to 3,298, it rose 10% to 3,629 in 2011. Historically, a large percentage jump as seen through 2006 and 2011 is common for Neepawa (Statistics Canada, 2013).

Beautiful Plains Community Foundation is consistently engaged in a number of ways to help strengthen the residents of their region. Since their inception in 1997, 45% of their grant-making has been directed towards health care initiatives. This can be seen through one of their recent donations towards the Neepawa and Area Palliative Care Centre. Community initiatives is another priority for Beautiful Plains Community Foundation as they 17% of their overall grants have been distributed towards this area. This includes the rejuvenation of different community projects that are in need of financial assistance. Other notable priorities include recreation and education (9% and 8% of overall granting, respectively) where they partake in activities that people from all ages can utilize (Beautiful Plains Community Foundation Newsletter, 2013). For more information on granting priorities, see Figure 1.



Figure 1. Granting Priorities of Beautiful Plans Community Foundation, 1997-2012



Source: Beautiful Plains Community Foundation Newsletter (2013)

Beautiful Plains Community Foundation continues to be an asset to Neepawa and surrounding communities. In 2013, they initiated a program called Decade Club where they are asking 100 individuals to contribute \$100 a year for ten years, allowing the Community Fund to receive \$100,000 in the next ten years for their Community Fund. In addition, the foundation has \$2,765,873 in total assets, allowing them to distribute over \$1.3 million in grants to 90 community organizations over the last fifteen years. Beautiful Plains Community Foundation also has a Youth Advisory Committee, where youth in the community have a say in granting priorities for the community (Beautiful Plains Community Foundation Newsletter, 2013).

Joshua Barrett  
Memorial University of Newfoundland

## References

Beautiful Plains Community Foundation. (2013). *June 2013 Newsletter*. Accessed 5 February 2014 from <http://www.mts.net/~bpcfinc/news.pdf>.

Statistics Canada. (2013). *Neepawa*. Accessed 27 February 2014 from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>.

## Further Information

- Beautiful Plains Community Foundation website: <http://www.mts.net/~bpcfinc/>.
- Fostering Sustainable Futures for Rural Regions through Philanthropy Initiative: <http://philanthropy.ruralresilience.ca>