

Tourism Advisory Panel – Request for Funding Application (Tourism Event)



Applicant Information	
Organization	First People's Circle of the Thousand Islands
Contact Name	Kevin John Saylor
Title	First People's Circle Chair
Address	75 King St. E., Gananoque
Phone #	514-891-3647
Email	kevin_john_saylor@hotmail.com
Event Website	none
Event Information	
Event Name	First People's Performing Arts Festival 2026
Event Dates	October 2-4
Event Organizer Name	Janice Orr
Event Organizer Phone #	613-659-3223; 613-483-3620
Event Organizer Email	orrdj@yahoo.ca
Funding Amount Requested	\$ 4,250

Tourism Advisory Panel – Request for Funding Application (Tourism Event) Continued



Please provide a description of event (300 words).

If there is not enough space, please answer the question on a separate page.

Organizing Committee

Lynn Pretsell cherylynnpretzell@yahoo.ca 613-449-7412

Glenna Wilberforce gwilberforcekeyes@gmail.com 613-331-4417

Kevin John Saylor kevin_john_saylor@hotmail.com 514-891-3647

Ann Beer ann_beer@hotmail.com 544-779-0156

Kathleen Warburton k09kitkat@rogers.com 818-576-8699

Anita Given aggiven@gmail.com 343-363-7802

Frayne McCarthy frayne.mccarthy@gmail.com 514-757-3647

Jan Orr orrdj@yahoo.ca 613-659-3223

Laura Foster mslaurafosteer@outlook.com

This is the tenth annual First Peoples Performing Arts Festival of the Thousand Islands, held in Gananoque. The Festival is a celebration of Indigenous performers in our contemporary world. The intention is that this will be an educational and entertaining experience for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, available to all at no cost.

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 2 - Movie Night at the Royal.

Saturday, October 3 - In the afternoon - story telling and drumming

Saturday, October 3 - in the evening - David Maracle - world renowned artist, multi instrumentalist and Indigenous knowledge keeper

Sunday, October 4 - afternoon - the collection of the Little Shoes Memorial., performance by Ten Cents a Dance, followed by a Friendship Feast and Closing Ceremonies.

Financial Plan

David Maracle - 3000.00

Ten Cents a Dance - 500.00

Performers - 5 at 200.00 each - 1000.00

Use of kitchen at Grace United Church - 200.00

Refreshments for performers - 200.00

Costs for Celebration Feast (groceries and food preparation; hiring Food Handlers, kitchen rental at Grace United - 800.00

Custodial services - 300.00

Administrative costs - 2500.00

Total Budget - \$8500.00

We are employing Indigenous people whenever possible. (food preparers, performers)

Additional items to be attached to the application:

- List of Board of Directors or Event Organizing Committee including emails and phone numbers
- Full Schedule of Events
- Detailed Event Budget/Financial Plan
- Please provide 2 letters of support from organizations and partners that support the project.
- The Town of Gananoque reserves the right to ask for copies of receipts validating expense claims.

Tourism Advisory Panel – Request for Funding Application (Tourism Event) Continued



If there is not enough space, please answer the questions below on a separate page.

1. Has this event been hosted before? If yes, when and where?

Yes; this is the tenth year we have held this festival. It is held the end of September or beginning of October at the Royal Theatre in Gananoque.

2. Who is your target market/audience?

General public.

3. Estimated # of tourists/visitors your event will attract to Gananoque (from 40+km away)

200

4. How and where will the event be advertised/marketed?

Social media and physical posters. Announced in local church bulletins.

**Letter of Support – First Peoples Performing Arts Festival
TAP Funding Application**

September 2, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Downtown Gananoque Business Improvement Area (BIA), I am pleased to provide our strong support for the **First Peoples Performing Arts Festival**, taking place October 2–4, 2026, in Gananoque.

This three-day festival will bring a meaningful celebration of First Peoples' culture, arts, music, storytelling, food, and performance to our community. With events taking place in **Town Hall Park and at the Royal Theatre**, the festival will provide opportunities for residents and visitors to experience Indigenous arts and culture while enjoying the many amenities our downtown has to offer.

The festival's exciting lineup, including performances by **David Maracle**, a movie night, and a Food Feast, will create a unique and engaging weekend for people of all ages. Events such as this help make Gananoque a vibrant destination and encourage visitors to spend additional time in our community, supporting local restaurants, shops, accommodations, and other downtown businesses.

The Downtown Gananoque BIA recognizes the importance of events that attract visitors during the shoulder season. Hosting a festival in early October provides an excellent opportunity to extend the tourism season and generate additional foot traffic and economic activity for our downtown businesses.

We believe the **\$5,000 in TAP funding requested** will make an important contribution toward delivering this event and helping establish it as a valuable annual cultural festival in Gananoque. We are pleased to support this initiative and look forward to promoting the festival through our BIA communications and social media channels.

The Downtown Gananoque BIA is proud to support the First Peoples Performing Arts Festival and its goal of bringing people together through culture, creativity, food, and the performing arts.

We wish the organizers every success with the festival and look forward to welcoming residents and visitors to downtown Gananoque for this special weekend.

Sincerely,

Sharon Ansell

Coordinator

Downtown Gananoque Business Improvement Area (BIA)

LANSDOWNE UNITED CHURCH

25 MILLER STREET, BOX 189

LANSDOWNE, ONTARIO

K0E-1L0

(613-659-3153)

lmunitedchurch@1000island.net

The members of Lansdowne United Church feel that the First People's Performing Arts Festival is a wonderful opportunity for people of all ages to participate in at no cost.

We have willingly supported this event for several years now, and intend to support it in the future.

Our church members are interested in attending the event again this year and feel that our community should be thankful that it is accessible to all.

The organizers and volunteers are to be commended for all the work they do to make this an annual event.

Clerk of Session, Janice Orr

LETTER OF SUPPORT

The members of a Youth Group, The Awesome White Doves, have enjoyed being able to take part in the programs offered by The First People's of the Thousand Islands. We look forward to the Little Shoes Walk on September 30, and to the First People's Festival in early October.

These events, sponsored by King Street Productions in Gananoque, give our Youth opportunities to learn about the Indigenous culture, and foster attitudes of understanding, acceptance and responsibility.

Involvement in activities like these helps our Youth appreciate the connections between cultures and understand that each individual needs to take ownership to ensure that everyone deserves to be treated as equals.

As a Youth Leader, I am glad to be able to work with our Youth and am pleased that these events are available for everyone to take part in.

Thank you, Janet Gaylord.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Janet Gaylord". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.



You agree that the information provide in this application is accurate. This is an application for funding and does not guarantee funding approval. Should the TAP and Council approve funding to your event, a funding agreement outlining the details of the funding and any associated recognition will be signed by both the Town of Gananoque and the organization receiving the funding.

Date: Sept. 3/2026 Title: Festival Chairperson

Name: Kevin John Saylor Signature: Kevin John Saylor

Completed application (with all requested attachments) to be submitted to:

Attention: Tourism Advisory Panel

30 King St. East, Gananoque, ON K7G 1E9

Phone: 613-382-2149 ext. 1125

Email: businesscoordinator@gananoque.ca

Jennifer Baril,

Thank you for your email,

The events are all free so that more folks can participate.

We have donations from the following -

St. Luke's Anglican Church - \$1000.00

Lansdowne United Church - \$1000.00

Individual donations towards cost of David Maracle - \$800.00

Awesome White Doves Youth Group - \$500.00

Grace United Church – \$200.00

Total - \$3500.00