



March 6, 2025

To: Senate Appropriations - Education and Environment Division

RE: International Peace Garden – Funding Request for 2025-2027 Biennium

Greetings Chairman Sorvaag and Members of the Education and Environment Division,

The International Peace Garden appreciates the continued support of the State of North Dakota and the partnership with the co-funding Province of Manitoba.

The Garden is in support of HB 1019 and humbly requests consideration of the following additions to the bill, as we seek matching for all items with Manitoba.

1. Base budget increase of \$400,000/biennium from \$1,126,329 to \$1,526,329.

Base budget

We will be seeking an increase to the base budget. With the great investments in infrastructure in recent years, we are now in a much better place to expand our year-round offerings. With that comes the need for additional staff, including maintenance staff, development staff and programming staff to continue building toward our goal of increasing K12 field trips. We are struggling to hire North Dakotans due to the rise of minimum wage in Manitoba and need to be more competitive in our wages, especially considering our remote location.

Pandemic-delayed Projects

The one-time joint agreement from 2019-2020 was the \$12M USD/\$15M CAD in capital infrastructure funds from the State and Province. With everything starting at the onset of the pandemic, we experienced lengthy delays having to do with materials and workforce shortages, and this has taken a considerable toll on our base budget. Work has continued into this winter on warranty items, but substantial completion is achieved. The House version of the bill has passed with \$317,500 for this and Manitoba is willing to match.

One-Time Capital Request – Youth Focus

In support of our own operations and those of the International Music Camp, we are seeking a one-time grant of \$1.5M as passed by the House to upgrade and replace critical systems in the dorms, the primary performance auditorium (Burdick Center for the Performing Arts) and the Peterson Dining Hall.

IMC is one of the most-renown youth camps in the world and continues to serve North Dakota students each year with world-class instruction. IMC rents facilities from IPG at a rate that allows both organizations to thrive. But our 6 primary dorms, the Burdick Center and Peterson Dining Hall are operating on original and now-inefficient HVAC systems, lighting and water heaters. The Performing Arts Center and 6 dorms were all constructed in 1993-94. The Dining Hall was completed in the late 1970s.

Some of these system components are no longer available, requiring a substantial upgrade to these buildings. By upgrading this campus, IPG and IMC will be able to expand educational opportunities so that dining and dorms are available year-round for overnight school-trips. The 6 dorms and Performing Arts Center already require heat, but the Dining Hall is not insulated. This prevents the Garden from becoming more energy-efficient and self-sustaining through year-round facility rentals.

With all one-time infrastructure requests for the 2025 biennium, we will be seeking matching dollars from the Province of Manitoba.

Separately, and also passed by the House, is one-time funding of \$1M to upgrade our sewer system which will greatly benefit all IPG and IMC operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Chapman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tim Chapman, CEO