

THE HONOURABLE DOUG BLACK, Q.C.
SENATOR - ALBERTA



L'HONORABLE DOUG BLACK, C.R.
SÉNATEUR - ALBERTA

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CANADA

Friday, March 26, 2021

Smoky Lake County Council
c/o Kyle Schole, Planning, Development, & Heritage Assistant
4612 McDougall Dr, Box 310
Smoky Lake, AB, T0A 3C0

Dear Reeve & County Council,

I am pleased to be writing in support of nominating and designating the North Saskatchewan River to the Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS), which would honour its exceptional natural, cultural, and recreational values.

The North Saskatchewan River, *kisiskâciwani-sîpiy, omaka-ty*, (“it flows swiftly”) possesses enduring heritage significance and myriad recreational opportunities. The human history surrounding the river corridor is more than sufficient to warrant designation to the CHRS.

As an example, the Métis Crossing Cultural Gathering Centre within the Victoria District National Historic Site is a remarkable place of interpretation, learning, and reconciliation.

A journey along the North Saskatchewan is truly a Canadian ‘paddle into the past’. From coast to coast to coast, heritage rivers offer Canadians and visitors a chance to experience great waterways, learn about their rich history, and share in their stewardship. Designation of the North Saskatchewan River to the CHRS will encourage ongoing use, respect, and stewardship among river communities.

The beautiful North Saskatchewan is currently (and appropriately) designated in Banff National Park, and this cross-province designation is the next logical step.

I commend you on the momentum you have generated in support of the project. Congratulations on taking a leadership role in championing and spearheading this worthy initiative. I look forward to following your progress to successful designation of this important Canadian waterway!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Black".

Senator Doug Black, Q.C.

cc: Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Hon. Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage
Hon. Jason Nixon, Alberta Minister of Environment and Parks
Ashley Campbell, Director, Heritage Designations and Programs Branch, Indigenous Affairs and Cultural Heritage Directorate, Parks Canada Agency
Amber Stewart, Integrated Land Use Planner, Jasper National Park
Tracy Draper, Director, Land Management Branch, Alberta Environment and Parks
Edmonton City Council, c/o Kyle Witiw
Edmonton Historical Board, c/o Dan Rose