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Edmonton, AB T6B 2P9

To: Smoky Lake County Council
4612 McDougall Drive, PO Box 310
Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0

**MUNICIPAL
SHAREHOLDERS**

Sent by: Email

May 28, 2021



**RE: Letter of Support for Nomination of the North Saskatchewan River,
Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS)**

To Whom it May Concern,

Further to the letter of support from Alberta Minister of Environment and Parks Jason Nixon, and subsequent support from our six municipal shareholders, it is a pleasure to provide this letter on behalf of the River Valley Alliance Board of Directors, supporting nomination of the North Saskatchewan River for the Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS).

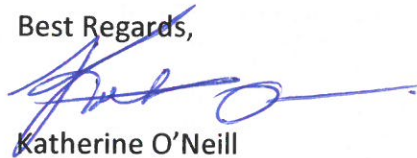
"The Canadian Heritage River System is a cooperative venture ...designed to offer international, national, provincial and regional recognition to outstanding rivers in Canada that demonstrate exceptional examples of Canadian cultural, natural, and recreation values. The main objective is to ensure the long-term management of these rivers in order that their unique values are conserved for the continuing benefit and enjoyment of Canadians and visitors to Canada." - from the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) Heritage River Background Study (2005).

We understand and appreciate that the CHRS is a voluntary, community-driven program and designation under the CHRS does not add to or increase development restrictions along the river corridor. However, the program serves to celebrate and

promote the natural, cultural, and recreational values of the river, a designation that the North Saskatchewan River is certainly worthy of.

The River Valley Alliance serves to co-ordinate, preserve, protect, and enhance one of the largest metropolitan river valley park systems in the world – a legacy for generations to come – by connecting 100 kms of trail system and making it easier for all to access and enjoy regardless of age or ability. As such we support the nomination of a portion of the North Saskatchewan River for inclusion as a nationally recognized watercourse within the Canadian Heritage River System.

Best Regards,



Katherine O'Neill
Chair, Board of Directors
River Valley Alliance



Kristine Archibald
Executive Director
River Valley Alliance

cc: Kyle Schole, Planning, Development, & Heritage Assistant , <kschole@smokylakecounty.ab.ca>