



MAYOR DON IVESON
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August 16, 2021

The Honourable Jason Nixon
Minister of Environment and Parks
323 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6



Dear Minister Nixon:

On behalf of Edmonton City Council, and further to an April 19, 2021, unanimous Council motion, I am pleased to share with you the City of Edmonton's conditional support for the nomination to the Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS) of the 818 kilometre stretch of the North Saskatchewan River that flows across Alberta.

The City supports the recognition of the North Saskatchewan River as part of Canada's outstanding river systems, which will enhance its significant heritage values for the long-term benefit and enjoyment of Canadians. However, as the structure, funding and action of the management board that would be associated with the CHRS designation have not yet been determined, the City is not able to comment on its support of that element at this time. The City of Edmonton looks forward to reviewing further details and plans related to the designation of the North Saskatchewan as a Heritage River. In particular, we look to understand the role that the City might play and how this cooperative venture can advance the shared interests of municipalities, Indigenous Peoples and other stakeholders in the North Saskatchewan River area.

The benefits and opportunities of the designation appear to be compatible with the plans and aspirations of the city, the region and the province. From an Edmonton perspective, I note in particular the work that the City of Edmonton has done in celebrating and protecting this unique water body, including The City Plan, and the initiation of projects such as Touch the Water Promenade and the River Valley Planning Modernization. I echo the comments of several other supporters on the benefits of this voluntary, community-driven program that will advance awareness and protection without increasing rules and restrictions along the river corridor.

The North Saskatchewan River runs through the heart of Edmonton and has been an important place of gathering, commerce and ceremony for Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. To this end, the City of Edmonton was pleased to see support for this designation from both the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations and the Métis Nation of Alberta.

The river has been vital in the development of the city, and will be an essential part of its future. We look forward to seeing how the CHRS designation can support the recognition and protection of this essential feature of Edmonton and the region.

Your truly,



Don Iveson
Mayor

c: Mr. Andre Corbould, City Manager, City of Edmonton
Mr. ~~Dan Rose~~, Chair, Edmonton Historical Board *Dominic Schamuhr.*
Mr. Stuart Lee, President and CEO, EPCOR Utilities Inc.

Smoky Lake County Council