

February 9, 2022

Grants and Education Property Tax Branch
Alberta Municipal Affairs
15th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L4

Delivered via email: acp.grants@gov.ab.ca

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: **Village of Vilna's Application – North Saskatchewan River**

On behalf of Sturgeon County Council, I am pleased to write in support of the Village of Vilna's Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) grant application to complete activities related to the North Saskatchewan River (the River).

A successful ACP Grant will allow the Village of Vilna to complete the mandatory non-statutory 10-year management plan required to achieve a successful designation to the Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS) for the River. Furthermore, the ability to undertake this research will provide an opportunity to gain valuable insight into how the region can best support environmental stewardship of the River and better understand the importance of the natural environment to our Indigenous partners.

Sturgeon County deeply values local heritage and our role as stewards of our natural environment. The County has long been supportive of the work undertaken by the Village of Vilna and Smoky Lake County to designate a portion of the River as a Heritage River under the CHRS; we believe that a successful designation to the CHRS will promote the region as a beautiful and surprising place to live.

We hope that Government of Alberta agrees that the River has rich cultural, natural, and recreational value and supports the Village of Vilna and Smoky Lake County in their work to champion the River's cultural and ecological importance.

Sincerely,

Alanna Hnatiw
Mayor, Sturgeon County

c: Hon. Dale Nally, Associate Minister, Natural Gas & MLA Morinville-St. Albert
Hon. Shane Getson, MLA, Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland
Council, Sturgeon County
Reegan McCullough, CAO Sturgeon County
Council, The Village of Vilna
Council, Smoky Lake County