
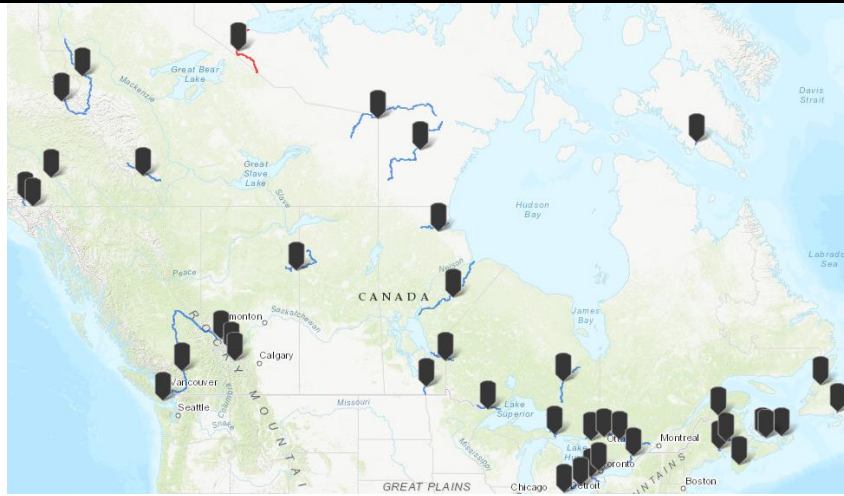


TOPIC BRIEFING	<p>Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS) Designation – Portion of the North Saskatchewan River</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
PROPOSAL	<p>Further to the Letter dated October 23, 2020 from Alberta Minister of Environment and Parks Jason Nixon, that Sturgeon County consider providing a Letter of Support to Smoky Lake County regarding the possible Designation of a portion of the North Saskatchewan River to the Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS).</p>
BACKGROUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October 2019, the Smoky Lake County Council Regional Heritage Board (SLCRHB) initiated a project to potentially designate a portion of the North Saskatchewan River under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS). • To-date, Smoky Lake County has received *22 Letters of Support, including from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cows and Fish Riparian Management Society ○ Parkland County, ○ the City of Spruce Grove, ○ the Metis Nation of Alberta (MNA), ○ Paddle Alberta, ○ Paddle Canada, ○ the Town of Stoney Plain, ○ Travel Alberta, ○ the Village of Clyde, ○ Westlock County, ○ the River Valley Alliance, ○ Lamont County, ○ Thorhild County, and ○ the Town of Rocky Mountain House • Minister Jason Nixon has indicated that that Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) will support the Nomination. <p>CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS SYSTEM (CHRS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada's national program for recognizing Canada's important rivers. It is a cooperative initiative of the federal, provincial, and territorial governments in conjunction with local communities and citizens, who play a key role in the program. • There are currently thirty-nine (39) Designated rivers across Canada. Many of the Designated rivers flow through major metro areas, such as the Fraser (Vancouver), Red (Winnipeg), Ottawa, Detroit (Windsor), etc.



- The CHRS Charter speaks to the Vision, and Purpose of the program:
 - **Vision:** This Charter affirms the vision of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board that: The Canadian Heritage Rivers System is a model of stewardship, cooperation and participation; one that engages society in valuing the natural and cultural heritage of rivers and river communities as essential to the identity, health and quality of life of Canadians.
 - **Purpose:** This Charter sets out a framework for cooperation between Canada and the participating Provinces and Territories (hereinafter together referred to as “the Participants”) to recognize, conserve and manage, in a sustainable manner, Canada’s designated heritage rivers and their natural qualities, cultural/historical heritage, and recreational values. The Charter provides a tangible public expression by governments in Canada of their support for and participation in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System and acknowledges the operation of the program through a strategic plan.
 - Created in 1984, Alberta joined the program in 1994, and currently enjoys three Designations under the System:
 - 1989: Headwaters of the North Saskatchewan (48km within Banff National Park)

Headwaters of the Athabasca (~168km within Jasper National Park)
 - 2003: Clearwater River (~326km from Fort McMurray, into the Province of Saskatchewan)
- The objectives of the Canadian Heritage Rivers program are to give national recognition to Canada's outstanding rivers as part of a comprehensive and representative system and to encourage long-term management that will conserve their natural, cultural and recreational values for the benefit and enjoyment of Canadians, now and in the future.
- The Canadian Heritage Rivers System is a model of stewardship, cooperation, and participation; one that engages society in valuing the natural and cultural heritage of rivers and river communities as essential to the identity, health and quality of life of Canadians.
- Alberta's representation to the CHRS is presently administered through Alberta Environment and Parks.
- **The CHRS is a non-statutory, voluntary, grassroots, community-driven**

	<p>program. Designation under the CHRS does NOT impact or increase development restrictions along the River. No new rules or restrictions are created as a result of Designation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For more information, please visit the CHRS website at www.chrs.ca <p>ATTACHMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Letter dated October 23, 2020 from Minister for Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), the Hon. Jason Nixon. - Draft Letter of Support
LEGISLATIVE, BYLAW and/or POLICY IMPLICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies, Part II - Activity Policies: Canadian Heritage Rivers Policy</u>
BENEFITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional, National, and International exposure for the region Tourism Recovery and Economic Development, including nature, land, river-based recreation Opportunities for the unlocking of Federal/Provincial grants, etc.
REQUEST	
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