

## Letterhead

## Date

**Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council**  
**350 Albert Street**  
**P.O. Box 1610**  
**Ottawa, ON K1P 6G4**

Dear SSHRC Reviewers,

Our organization supports the research proposal entitled “**Tracking Change: The Role of Local and Traditional Knowledge in Watershed Governance**”. We have developed the project in collaboration with Dr. Brenda Parlee (University of Alberta) and other communities, organizations and partners with the hope of receiving funding for the project in 2015-2021.

We hope to be involved in many aspects of the research process. Through the MRBB Traditional Knowledge and Strengthening Partnerships Committee, we will help provide oversight and direction of the project on behalf of the Aboriginal Organizations within each jurisdiction within the Mackenzie River Basin. Working together with the other organizations, governments and universities will be important to supporting our vision for the sustainability of the Mackenzie River Basin and our communities.

Specifically, we see that the project will increase our capacity to:

- Incorporate Traditional Knowledge into MRBB reports and documents;
- recognize the inherent value of full Aboriginal participation and governance in the Mackenzie River Basin Board activities and
- Encourage the meaningful integration of Traditional Knowledge and effective engagement practices into the MRBB’s activities.
- Strengthen the MRBB with respect to Aboriginal partnership functions and activities including those related to Traditional Knowledge.

We agree to engage in the Partnership according to the following

### **Principles of Collaboration:**

- (I) Collaborate to achieve the objectives of the proposed SSHRC Partnership project, “Tracking Change: Local and Traditional Knowledge in Watershed Governance”.
- (II) Commitment to participate in the Partnership with interest in contributing to the long-term sustainability of the Mackenzie River Basin, the Lower Mekong and the Lower Amazonian Basin and the livelihoods and well-being of current and

future generations; Respect for the socio-cultural diversity of all members of the Partnership;

- (III) Respect for and commitment to consideration of input of all Partner Organizations and Project Team members into decisions made by the TKSC in respect of the Partnership (See Terms of Reference for Advising the TKSC);
- (IV) (IV) Respect for any relevant policies and legal requirements related to research licensing and research ethics including those of Canadian Tri-Council, the University of Alberta Government of the Yukon and Government of the Northwest Territories;
- (V) Respect for principles of culturally appropriate and meaningful research with Aboriginal partners including: broad recognition of the value of local and traditional knowledge, broad respect for local and regional protocols for working with LTK holders, and honouring of communities and regional government/organization decisions about the documentation, use and long term storage of LTK in respect of their communities and regions.
- (VI) Agreement to carry out work related to the partnership according to the proposal and in a manner that does not contradict the terms or conditions of the funding agency's agreement on the use of the funds.

The research project is important to us because communities throughout the Mackenzie River Basin have raised concerns about the health of the basin and what this may mean for us, our children, and our grandchildren. As the use of land and water increases and we feel the effects of climate change, we see changes on the land, the water, the plants, and the animals. We worry about how these changes could affect our social, economic and cultural wellbeing. There are many gaps in documented sources of Traditional Knowledge within the Mackenzie River Basin. Filling these gaps will help us better understand these changes.

Sincerely,