



November 25, 2021

RE: Conservation and Restoration of Peatland Ecosystems of NW Alberta through Community Outreach, Applied Research, Technology Dissemination, and HQP Training

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the project proposed by Dr. Bin Xu (NSERC Industrial Research Chair for Colleges, Peatland Restoration, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology) titled **"Conservation and Restoration of Peatland Ecosystems of NW Alberta through Community Outreach, Applied Research, Technology Dissemination, and HQP Training"** under the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program.

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA) is a multi-sector, not for profit society committed to planning for an ecologically healthy watershed while ensuring environmental, economic and social sustainability. The MPWA was formed in 2011, when it was designated the official Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) for the Peace/Slave River Basin under the Government of Alberta's Water for Life Strategy. The Peace River basin covers approximately 1/3 of the province.

The MPWA is a group of active stakeholders and communities that use consensus decision-making, adaptive management, and innovation to understand and promote living within the watershed. The MPWA Board reports on the state of the watershed, leads watershed planning activities, and promotes best management practices. The mission of the MPWA includes promoting watershed excellence through science, education, communication, policy and by supporting watershed stewardship. The proposed project with NAIT is a terrific fit with our mission and helps to address one of our most critical issues being the cumulative impacts of natural resource extraction and exploration activities found throughout the watershed. The Upper Peace and Smoky-Wapiti subbasins of Northwest Alberta are subject to severe drought and flood risks and deteriorating water quality due to overuse of surface and groundwater. This project aims to restore legacy seismic lines within the two subbasins to return the hydrological functions of boreal peatlands as critical water sources to adjacent uplands and downstream water bodies. The restoration will be integrated with training and technical knowledge dissemination extending well beyond the physical works with demonstrations, and publishing of video and technical notes.



NAIT Centre for Boreal Research has a proven track record in peatland restoration and applied research. They are known for their focus on the development of practical solutions for managing and restoring boreal peatlands disturbed by industrial activities. The MPWA will collaborate on the proposed project by advising on the selection of field sites, promoting and participating in workshops, and disseminating results with our network of members and contacts in industry and the public.

We look forward to learning and applying the knowledge that will be gained by the project and highly we highly recommend the support of this grant application by NAIT CBR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier", is written over a light blue grid background.

Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier
Executive Director, Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance

CC: Bin Xu, NAIT Centre for Boreal Research