



**Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs**  
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

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May 5, 2021

Ernie Bussidor, Project Director  
Sayisi Dene First Nation  
Box 7, Tadoule Lake, MB  
R0B 2C0

via email: [Ernie@SealRiverWatershed.ca](mailto:Ernie@SealRiverWatershed.ca)

Dear Mr. Bussidor,

**RE: Letter of Support for the Seal River Watershed Initiative**

On behalf of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, I am honoured to provide a letter of support for the Seal River Watershed Initiative. This is a very important initiative that is intended to protect the entirety of the Seal River watershed from industrial activity in this unique partnership of Cree, Dene and Inuit Nations.

This work is so critical due to the fact that the watershed is teeming with 3,000 Beluga whales, nearly 400,000 barren ground caribou, massive flocks of birds, moose, timber wolves and polar bears. It is our understanding that by protecting the Seal River Watershed — which constitutes 8% of Manitoba and 0.5% of Canada's land mass — would help Canada reach its goal of conserving 25% of our lands and fresh waters by 2025. That is an amazing feat to be undertaken by First Nations who have always been stewards of our lands and waters for thousands of years. We commend you for leading this important initiative.

I thank you for providing an update on your work to date, if you require any assistance from my office, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS**

Grand Chief Arlen Dumas

cc. Chief and Council, Sayisi Dene  
Chief and Council, Northlands  
Chief and Council, Barren Lands  
Chief and Council, O-Pipon-Na Piwin  
Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO)