



November 12, 2024

Dear Chair Hiebert and Directors,

**Re: Letter of Support for City of Dawson Creek Conditional Water Licence Application**

The City of Dawson Creek is seeking the support of neighbouring First Nations and municipalities in its application for a Conditional Water Licence on the Peace River.

The historic and pervasive drought of the past several years, combined with the effects of climate change, have had a significant and detrimental impact on the Kiskatinaw watershed which currently, and historically, has supplied the city's water. Over the past 18 months, the Kiskatinaw River flow has steadily diminished until January 20 of this year when it all but stopped. A period of extreme cold weather in January caused the river to freeze off reducing flows to almost zero.

Water conservation measures were enacted to limit industrial use and preserve as much water as possible in the reservoirs. The city was unable to pump water from the Kiskatinaw until March 15, by which time storage reservoirs had been substantially depleted. Currently, the city is replenishing its reservoirs which, when refilled, provide approximately 200 days of water supply. The concern is that available forecasts indicate another hot, dry summer exacerbated by a changing climate which will make these types of events more frequent.

To ensure the city can meet the current and future needs of the community, access to an alternative water source is crucial. Therefore, the City of Dawson Creek proposes in its application to access the Peace River downstream of the Highway 97 North crossing. The diversion would allow for a maximum daily withdrawal of 40,000 cubic meters, less than 0.05% of daily flow in the Peace River, or 14,600,000 cubic meters annually. The implementation of this plan will allow the Kiskatinaw watershed and its ecosystem the necessary time to recover and be restored to a healthy state.

It is important to note the success of this application will be beneficial for residents of Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe, and the South Peace, local industry and organizations including, but not limited to, agriculture, oil and gas, and wildfire mitigation.

The City of Dawson Creek asks that you support their application to the Ministry of Water, Lands, and Resource Stewardship by providing a letter of support on behalf of your organization.

If approved, please forward your letter of support to [admin@dawsoncreek.ca](mailto:admin@dawsoncreek.ca).

We look forward to, and appreciate, your support on this matter.

Sincerely,

Darcy Dober  
Mayor

Date

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship  
Attn: Marianne Johnson  
Director, Authorizations  
Northeast Region Authorizations  
Permitting Transformation Division

Email: [Marianne.Johnson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Marianne.Johnson@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Ms. Johnson:

**Re: Letter of Support for City of Dawson Creek Conditional Water Licence Application**

The *(First Nation / Local Government)* fully supports the City of Dawson Creek in their application for a Conditional Water Licence on the Peace River.

The historic and pervasive drought of the past several years, combined with the effects of climate change, have had a significant and detrimental impact on the Kiskatinaw watershed which currently, and historically, has supplied water to the City of Dawson Creek. Over the past 18 months, the Kiskatinaw River flow has steadily diminished until January 20 of this year when it all but stopped. A period of extreme cold weather in January caused the river to freeze off reducing flows to almost zero.

Water conservation measures were enacted to limit industrial use and preserve as much water as possible in the reservoirs. The City of Dawson Creek was unable to pump water from the Kiskatinaw until March 15, by which time storage reservoirs had been substantially depleted. Currently, the City of Dawson Creek is replenishing its reservoirs which, when refilled, provide approximately 200 days of water supply. The concern is that available forecasts indicate another hot, dry summer exacerbated by a changing climate will make these types of events more frequent. Securing an alternate source of water is crucial to the health of the city, its economy, and to ensuring the long-term health of the Kiskatinaw watershed for generations to come.

We understand the proposed point of diversion to be downstream of the Highway 97 North crossing and support this location. We understand the City of Dawson Creek is looking for maximum daily withdrawals of 40,000 cubic meters, less than 0.05% of daily flow in the Peace River, or 14,600,000 cubic meters annually. However, withdrawals are expected to be significantly lower based on recent demands and these values have been chosen to allow for future growth, and we support this.

We understand the proposed project will be beneficial for residents of Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe, and the South Peace, local industry and organizations which may include but are not limited to agriculture, oil and gas, and wildfire mitigation.

We are pleased to offer this letter of support for the City of Dawson Creek, and we encourage you to consider granting their application.

Sincerely,

*Name*

*Position/Organization*