



December 18, 2023

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Nanaimo Canoe and Kayak Club and the Long Lake Rowing and Paddling Centre project

On behalf of the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council (I-SPARC), I am pleased to provide a letter of support for Nanaimo Canoe and Kayak Club (NCKC) and their efforts to support the Long Lake Rowing and Paddling Centre project.

A primary goal of I-SPARC is to improve the health outcomes of Indigenous people across British Columbia by supporting and expanding access to sport and recreation opportunities. The proposed benefits of the project, including accessible rowing and paddling opportunities, and a secure and welcoming space aligns with I-SPARC's mission to enhance health outcomes and broaden access to sport for Indigenous communities.

The NCKC has long supported I-SPARC and our Team BC program for the North American Indigenous Games with event hosting for athlete development camps, leadership and volunteerism, and guidance via our Provincial Indigenous Canoe/Kayak Committee. NCKC is also developing relationships with the Mid Island Metis Nation and Snuneymuxw First Nation including recruiting Jacob Seward from Snuneymuxw, who qualified for the 2022 BC Summer Games and the 2023 Team BC for NAIG. This underscores the positive impact of initiatives in nurturing talent and providing valuable opportunities.

Further to this engagement, NCKC has scheduled a professional development opportunity in collaboration with I-SPARC to host an Aboriginal Coaches Modules course this winter for their staff, volunteers, coaches. This training will help further develop coaching and leadership capacity in support of developing positive relationships and creating of welcoming spaces.

The Long Lake Rowing and Paddling Centre initiative, a collaboration between the Nanaimo Rowing Club (NRC), the Nanaimo Canoe and Kayak Club (NCKC), and the Rotary Club of Nanaimo North, holds great promise. We look forward to future opportunities for Indigenous participation.

We look forward to witnessing the continued success of the Long Lake Rowing and Paddling Centre initiative and its enduring impact on the region.

Kind regards,



Lara Mussell Savage
Director, Sport