



Charles Helm
Chairperson, Tumbler Ridge Aspiring Geopark Steering Committee
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January 28th, 2013

To members of the Tumbler Ridge Geopark Steering Committee,

Re: Letter of support for Tumbler Ridge Geopark proposal

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the Tumbler Ridge Geopark proposal. I have read with interest the expression of interest and related documents around the Geopark initiative and wish to communicate my full support for this most important and valuable undertaking. The greater Tumbler Ridge region is one of the most unique areas I have ever visited. A rich geo-physical heritage, a strong community and economic foundation linked intimately with that heritage, all set within a large and unspoiled wilderness territory that is rich with human history.

The Community Development Institute at UNBC works with communities across northern British Columbia on the research, information, and education outreach needed to support communities and to assist small places in making informed decisions about their own futures. It is recognized for the high quality of its research that promotes community sustainability and resilience, supports local decision making. In all aspects of its mandate, the Community Development Institute is excited about the opportunities a proposed Tumbler Ridge Geopark could bring to the region.

My Canada Research Chair work is on the sustainability of rural and small places. As such, I have had the opportunity to work with colleagues on projects in a large number of OECD countries. The proposed Tumbler Ridge Geopark is an innovative place-based initiative that can be a cornerstone for more resilient community and sustainable economy, while at the same time bringing recognition to the unique bio-geo-community-economic landscape.

The expression of interest is a strong one. The involvement of local government, local voluntary groups, local and regional industry players, together with regional tourism organizations is exactly the combination needed to steer the Tumbler Ridge Geopark forward. As you know, I have a long research relationship with Tumbler Ridge. In the past, my research team has worked on studies of housing issues, studies of seniors' needs, reviews of service availability, and we

were very active in the Tumbler Ridge Transition Project in the early 2000s. The Tumbler Ridge Geopark proposal fits within the ongoing commitment of the community to its natural heritage and to its future social and economic well-being. I am pleased to provide my full support to this initiative and the expression of interest.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Halseth', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

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