

September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Mayor and Council  
Town of Fort Frances  
320 Portage Avenue  
Fort Frances, ON  
P9A 3P9

Dear Mayor and Council,

I thank you for the consideration of supporting the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual International Dragon Boat Festival.

The International Boundary Waters Dragon Boat Festival has played a major Town role since its creation and development. This past year our event was the kick off to Peaceful Border Days, and we saw the creation of the official Boundary Waters Dragon Boat Team with 36 current members, from both sides of the border, that volunteer in our communities and help promote health and fitness in our area.

Over the summer dragon boat organizers documented 27 individuals from the U.S. who had not, prior to dragon boat, crossed the border to Fort Frances. The Dragon Boat Club & Festival Committee organized vendors, children's activities, workshops, and brought in 22 Dragons to assist with course and race day set up. We had eight festival teams and 128 paddlers over the season with our trained coaches providing free weekly paddles to all additional residents and visitors 14 years of age and up.

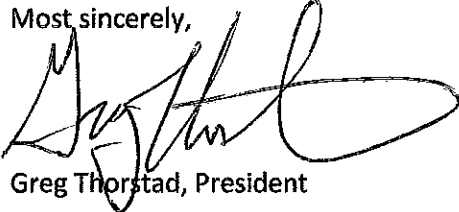
We train three days a week, and our trailer now proudly boasts the Fort Frances logo, which we brought to Bemidji and Superior when our team competed. There we handed out over 75 Discover Fort Frances magazines, a case of Fort Frances Chamber Directories, and almost 50 double-sided maps of the Fort Frances-International Falls area.

A real need for the Dragon Boat Club, which operates as a non-profit organization under the direction of the Boundary Waters Dragon Boat Foundation, is assistance with the costs associated with site preparation and race day maintenance, cost of insurances, advertising, and promotion of the event. As such, the International Boundary Waters Dragon Boat Club is requesting \$ 1,500 from the Town of Fort Frances to help support our effort to provide a local event that we can all be proud of, as well as an essential destination tourist draw to inject needed dollars into our local economy.

This contribution from the Town of Fort Frances would be greatly appreciated and well used. It would assist us with the costs of hosting such a large scale community event that has shown great promise of growing substantially in the coming years. We also thank you for your continued support of allowing us to park our boats and needed equipment trailer at the marina for the summer season.

We believe that the Dragon Boat Festival is consistent with the mission and economic interest of the Town, and we hope that you will find it in your budget to support this family friendly community event. If I can provide additional information to encourage consideration of our request, please feel free to contact me on my cell at (404) 590-9628.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Thorstad', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Greg Thorstad, President  
Boundary Waters Dragon Boat