



Planning and Development

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November 12, 2021

To whom it may concern;

RE: EJ4Climate: Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience Grant Program – Building community resilience and mobilizing action on climate change in Saugeen Ojibway Nation

On behalf of Grey County, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Commission for Environmental Cooperation Initiative entitled EJ4Climate: Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience Grant Program - Building community resilience and mobilizing action on climate change in Saugeen Ojibway Nation. The aim of this project is to spur action on climate change in Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) Territory and communities and serve as a model that might be adopted by other Indigenous communities in the region and elsewhere.

There is a significant opportunity to integrate local knowledge and community priorities into innovative adaptation solutions across Saugeen Ojibway Nation, including Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation and Saugeen First Nation, with focus on community-driven solutions to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Ongoing risk assessment work capturing key climate hazards, impacts and sensitivities of specific habitats and species of importance to the communities can be built on and help enhance climate resiliency and sustainability within SON communities.

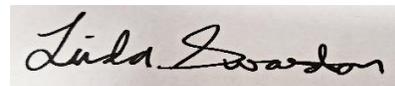
The Territory of Saugeen Ojibway Nation includes over 2 million acres in Southwestern Ontario, covering a wide range of natural habitats and species. The natural environment of Saugeen Ojibway Nation Territory plays a vital role in the lives of local communities and is essential for cultural, spiritual and economic well-being. Climate-related impacts including, warming water temperatures, increasing variability of water levels, unreliable ice cover, increased pest and disease incidences (i.e., Lyme Disease), extreme weather events and changes in seasonality have already been experienced by local communities.

The EJ4Climate Program will enable Saugeen Ojibway Nation to build on their existing resilience and ongoing relationship with Grey County. The project will support the extension and application of existing work and increase capacity throughout the community to adapt to a changing climate.

Grey County is in the process of drafting our first Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), which includes a recommendation to create a County-wide adaptation plan. Grey County is committed to building relationship with SON to appropriately reflect Indigenous leadership and knowledge in climate action work, and strongly supports resourcing to build capacity at SON on climate action.

We see considerable value in this project, including the opportunity for a continued partnership with Saugeen Ojibway Nation to work on adapting to the impacts associated with a changing climate. We hope that you will take our support and interest into account in making your funding decisions.

Yours truly,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Swanston".

Linda Swanston
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