

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

The nomination document demonstrates that the South Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Rivers possess outstanding cultural heritage values and meet all CHRS cultural heritage value selection and integrity guidelines outlined in *A Cultural Framework for Canadian Heritage Rivers*.

The South Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Rivers will contribute to the Canadian Heritage River System by representing cultural heritage themes related to the use of the river and adjacent plains. This includes Aboriginal people prior to European contact, the fur trade and exploration of western Canada, the Northwest Resistance, the settlement of the western plains and the development of the largest multi-purpose water use project in Canadian history.

The Nomination Document also demonstrates that the South Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Rivers possess outstanding natural heritage values that are currently not represented in the CHRS. However, because there are impoundments on the river, it cannot satisfy the integrity guidelines for nomination based on the natural heritage values. Nevertheless, if the nomination is approved based on the cultural heritage values, the South Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Rivers will fill a major gap in the CHRS representing the prairies physiographic region of Canada.

The Saskatchewan River System is the fourth longest in North America. It passes through all three Prairie Provinces and should be recognized in the CHRS for its tremendous significance to the cultural, natural, and recreational heritage of Canada.

The designation of the South Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Rivers will aid in the protection of these rivers while enhancing and publicizing the cultural, natural and recreational heritage of the river. The letters of support from residents, communities and stakeholders from along the river demonstrates a strong desire to protect the river.