



Full-Length Letter (with Verified Statistics)

Dear [Candidate's Name],

As a resident of [City/Ward], I am writing to express my strong support for completing the Amisk Wacîw Mêskanaw — a 100 km continuous trail from Devon to Fort Saskatchewan through the North Saskatchewan River Valley, led by the River Valley Alliance (RVA). Seventy-five kilometres have already been completed, but the final 25 km within Edmonton remain unfinished. To complete this legacy project, the RVA requires funding support and the commitment of our municipal leaders.

Why this matters — backed by evidence:

- **Health & Mental Well-Being:** Trails like the Trans Canada Trail save Canadians an estimated \$1.7 billion annually in healthcare costs, plus \$63 million in mental health benefits (Trans Canada Trail, 2023).
- **Economic & Tourism Benefits:** Every \$1 invested in trails can return up to \$7 in economic value annually — over \$1.1 billion in benefits at scale (Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, 2023).
- **Regional Ecosystem Value:** An assessment of the North Saskatchewan River Basin found its ecosystem services contribute approximately \$17.7 billion annually, alongside \$79.1 billion in economic activity (University of Alberta, 2009).

The River Valley is Edmonton's greatest natural asset. Completing the final 25 km will strengthen community connections, promote healthy lifestyles, attract visitors, and deliver measurable economic and environmental benefits.

I urge you, as a candidate for [Mayor/City Council], to prioritize funding support for the River Valley Alliance so this important project can be completed.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address/Neighbourhood, optional]

River Valley Alliance | rivervalley.ab.ca