



Toronto, July 29, 2021

RE: Endorsement letter for John Hawke CORDA Funding

Deborah Kimball
CORDA SECRETARIAT
431 Hiawatha Line
Hiawatha First Nation, ON K9J 0E6

**FACULTY OF
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Dear Ms. Kimball:

Please accept this letter enthusiastically endorsing the project proposed to your organization by Mr. John Hawke as part of the Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement (CORDA). As an established educator and researcher at one of Canada's largest universities, I interact daily with incredibly talented people. That practical experience allows me to clearly rank the work of Mr. Hawke as crucial to develop viable food security strategies for the Beausoleil First Nation. Furthermore, I also anticipate that Mr. Hawke's work will be highly inspirational to many other Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

We are working very closely with a team that includes Mr. Hawke, York University faculty and students; Mr. Greg Garratt (President of the Georgian Bay Métis Council www.metisnation.org); and Board Members of the Rural Urban Learning Association of Canada (www.rurallearning.org) to develop a living laboratory to showcase and teach strategies for permaculture and food security in the Ecology Garden of Penetanguishene, Ontario (located in 144 Fox Street). Our team has secured a land lease from the Town of Penetanguishene that provides all of us with land access to a very strategic location to achieve our common goals of showcasing climate solutions, sustainable agriculture and food security (for a brief video of our work please see: <https://vimeo.com/449672681>)

Through our partnership, I have come to appreciate Mr. Hawke's boundless creativity, strong work ethic, and more importantly the inspirational leadership that he provides to all of those that are fortunate to work with him. Mr. Hawke also represents to me the type of personal example I want my students to emulate. He is incredibly bright, kind to everyone around him and a source of boundless inspiration and practical energy. It is an honour to nominate him to receive CORDA Funding to support the development of his valuable work and we are also willing to help with our organizations to help process the CORDA award (please note that our partners at the Rural Urban Learning Association have status as a Canadian Charitable Organization and the board actively supports the development of partners and their organizations).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JRE".

José Etcheverry, PhD.

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