

Deborah Kimball  
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Dear Ms. Kimball,

Please accept this letter as an emphatic recommendation for Mr. Johnny Hawke of G'Chimnissing First Nation. As the director of Indigenous Affairs for the Rural Urban Learning Association (<https://www.ruralllearning.org/>), I've worked closely with Johnny on projects involving food security and land rights initiatives.

I've seen firsthand how Johnny operates as a land defender through the beach encampments he's created to raise awareness on water rights and treaty issues. Everything that I know about Treaty number 5, also known as the Penetanguishene Purchase, I have learned from Johnny Hawke. He is an excellent educator, orator, writer, and historian. These qualities make him an asset to both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

I've also seen how he perseveres fearlessly in the face of colonial surveillance and policing. He does this because land protection is his life's work and duty to the community. Johnny embodies the qualities of environmentalism and land stewardship that the organization of RULA strives towards, and for this reason, we consider it an honour to know and work with him. In my opinion, the job of land defending that Mr. Hawke has undertaken will be critical to the future of Indigenous peoples. If there is a resurgence to be had for Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island, the generations to come will have people like Johnny Hawke to thank.

Sincerely,

Kieran Kalls Rice

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