

Mackenzie Nature Observatory  
24500 Parsnip West Forest Service Rd  
PO Box 1598  
Mackenzie, BC  
V0J 2C0  
[MackenzieNatureObservatory@gmail.com](mailto:MackenzieNatureObservatory@gmail.com)

April 7, 2025

Mayor and Council  
District Municipal Office  
1 Mackenzie Blvd.  
PO Bag 340  
Mackenzie, BC  
V0J 2C0

Dear Mayor Atkinson and Council:

The Mackenzie Nature Observatory requests Mayor and Council approve our application for an in-kind grant to our organization for a Special Project. We have operated the Mugaha Marsh Banding Station for 30 years. Many visitors come to see us. Our volunteers stay multiple days.

We are asking for:

- Use of the Municipal Campground or Recreation Centre showers for our banders and volunteers,
- Use of designated dumpsters for garbage and recycling, and
- Grading of the road to Mugaha Marsh once or twice during the operating season.

We have typically been approved in the past for this grant.

BC Society Incorporation Number S0036498  
CRA-Registration Charity Number 88801 9296

Our purpose is to research, conserve, restore and assist in the management of the natural resources found in the Mackenzie, BC area; to promote the understanding and enjoyment of nature; and to encourage the protection and restoration of species.

Executive positions:

Ryan Bichon, President  
Sandra Kinsey, Vice-president  
Kessie Konwicki, Secretary

We have continuing funding agreements with Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program—Peace Region and Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Our membership fees are minimal: Family \$25, Individual \$20, and Junior \$15. Half of our 60 members are from Mackenzie, and most of our visitors are from Mackenzie. Membership is a requirement to volunteer at the station.

This year, we will continue to open the banding station from July 19 to September 30 and welcome visitors and volunteers. This will be our second season of full-time structured Owl Banding Program for the month of September with special visitor-nights and the opportunity to volunteer. Mugaha Marsh gives visitors and volunteers the opportunity to not only learn about nature and wildlife in the Mackenzie area, but also to see it. The views are stunning and relaxing.

Mackenzie Nature Observatory does not receive any permissive tax exemptions, nor use District-owned facilities, except for those we are requesting in this application.

The District will be recognized for its contributions in our Annual Report at the end of the season, and on our social media accounts at the beginning and end of the season.

We have operated the Mugaha Marsh Banding Station for 30 years.

The grant is very useful to MNO as we do not have running water at the station, nor garbage/recycling pickup. The grant could encourage visitors to stay longer. The requested support also benefits the District as the Banding Station attracts Canadian and international tourists. Local residents, school groups, and groups from UNBC also visit the station during the season.

There is a need for this project in the community. The project encourages community building as it provides an opportunity for local residents to participate in an outdoor activity that promotes health and can improve quality of life. It also improves economic vitality to Mackenzie as it brings in tourists and staff (3 banders annually) that spend money at local businesses.

Monitoring bird populations also provides an indication of the environmental sustainability of the surrounding area as they are impacted by industrial activities, forest pests, and recreational activities. Our continued monitoring of bird population trends provides valuable information to our community.

MNO has applied for funds from other sources. Bird Studies Canada - MNO receives 75% of funds raised by individuals during the Great Canadian Birdathon; Environment and Climate Change Canada - through the Canadian Wildlife Service, multi-year agreement; Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program – Peace Region, multi-year agreement with the FWCP for funding; BC Naturalists' Foundation / BC Nature - MNO will receive support to enhance the 2025 season; McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest for project-specific endeavours, and various other entities.

If we do not receive approval of our request the quality of life at the station will decrease substantially. It would make attracting long-term volunteers difficult. Grading the road to MNO is critical to grant volunteers and staff decent access to the site. Access to showers and dumpsters is essential to the day-to-day life of our staff and volunteers.

Start date: July 16, 2025

End date: October 3, 2025

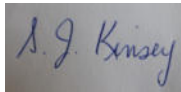
Key activities of Mugaha Marsh Banding Station are capturing and banding passerines from July 19 to September 30; capturing and banding small owls from September 1 to September 30. MNO hires 4-5 bird banders and utilizes local and out-of-town volunteers to complete the project. Visitors and volunteers are welcome at the station.

After closing, the data is collated, proofed again, analyzed and sent off to various agencies by volunteers. The Annual Report consolidating the season is written and distributed, again, by volunteers.

The Budget and latest available Financial Statement are in this document after the signature.

Thank you for considering our request.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. J. Kinsey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and contact information.

Sandra Kinsey,  
Vice-president, MNO  
236-550-6079  
[sjkinsey@direct.ca](mailto:sjkinsey@direct.ca)