



Sample of supporting letters

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January 4, 2009

Robin and Arlene Karpan's book: *Northern Saskatchewan Canoe Country*, is the book many of us have been decades waiting for. Those of us who paddle northern Saskatchewan's waterways have been telling people for many years of the extent and beauty of our north. The response usually is: "Yea right, I'll just keep canoeing in Algonquin." Now we have a book of very high quality and a book that encompasses all the regions of the north to show them. Since the book came out in the spring of 2008, I have used this book to sell many paddlers on the virtues of northern Saskatchewan.

The quality of the photos is the first thing that catches the eye when looking at *Northern Saskatchewan Canoe Country*. It doesn't matter where you open the book, the artistic quality and attention to detail are evident.

The second thing that is immediately evident is the extent to which research was done. Northern Saskatchewan is a big and very remote place. To create this book obviously took very many summers of canoeing and waiting for the right weather and the right light to create such amazing photos. One can't do a book like this by flying in by helicopter, take some quick snap shots and leave.

A third thing that becomes obvious is that this book is a labour of love. It is quite evident that Robin and Arlene have a deep appreciation for the incredible landscape of our north. When one is handed a book with such awesome photographs, that last thing to do is read the text. I am very impressed at how the text catches the feeling I get when I paddle these various rivers.

There is no one better to put this book together than Robin and Arlene. Their photographic skill and their love of canoeing and their love of the north have combined to produce a truly amazing book. Saskatchewan's north is so vast and so beautiful, I am anxiously waiting for volume 2.

Sincerely,

Ric Driediger
Owner/Operator
Churchill River Canoe Outfitters

The following letter is from Jason Schoonover, Communications Director for the Canadian Chapter of the Explorers Club.

To: [Robin Arlene Karpan](#)

Sent: Monday, December 22, 2008 11:26 PM

Subject: Northern Saskatchewan Canoe Country

Hi Robin and Arlene,

Just before I head back to my winter home in Bangkok there's one thing I wanted to tell you—and that's just how great NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN CANOE COUNTRY is. I'm absolutely blown away by it. I've been leading brigades for longer than I can remember and it's an enormously welcome addition to paddling here in Saskatchewan. Ric Driediger at Churchill River Canoe Outfitters says, "It's long overdue." And all of us who canoe know that our backyard of 100,000 pristine lake and rivers, loaded with exploration and fur trade history, gives us simply the best canoeing on the planet. It was Saskatchewan's best kept secret - but no longer!

I'm so impressed by it that I plugged it to all 235 friends on my Voyageur List. This summer I led three cost-sharing 12-person brigades and I can't think of anyone who didn't buy one to take back as a souvenir! In fact, my Reindeer River brigade cleaned out your stock at Ric's in Missinipi, and my Churchill River brigade cleaned them out at Slim's Cabins! (Once back in Toontown I had to drive one person to McNally's to get her copy.)

Two of those on the Churchill were Explorers Club members (I'm a fellow of The Explorers Club and serve as the Canadian Chapter's Communications Director and I survey the Club for paddlers too). One was Capt. Norm Baker who was Thor Heyerdahl's first mate, navigator and radioman on the reed boat expeditions RA, RA-II and TIGRIS, one of our Directors from New York, and he was impressed as much by the book as he was with the paddling! He got everyone on the brigade to sign his copy as a souvenir, which I'm sure is going to be a trend. (As a matter of fact, Norm was so impressed with our canoeing, and he's been shooting whitewater since the '60s, that he's booked onto my William River trip through the Athabasca Sand Dunes next summer. I hope I'm still shooting rapids at 81! But then Norm is one of the great adventurers and explorers of these and any other time.)

Two couples on the earlier Reindeer River trip flew in from Thailand and both took books back to Bangkok with them. I also sent a copy with them for a good friend of all of ours who regularly hosts soirees among our large circle of friends there (Julian and three others flew over for the Forbes-Churchill run in 2002). I was just on the phone to him last week, and had forgot I had sent the book down, but he brought it up and was hugely appreciative. He was delighted to see familiar scenes and especially the 1000 meter "portage from Hell" by Sluice Falls taken from the air. Everyone from my Bangkok crowd who has been over just raves about the canoe trips—and I know that this book is going to do a LOT to convince more to jump over, hee hee hee, he cackles nefariously.

Outstanding guys. A masterpiece. Congratulations. It brilliantly captures and promotes our fabulous canoe country. One part of me hates to see more people using the north, but the other knows that if we want to ensure that it stays as it is, we need more paddlers up there. And, as an old scribbler stringing travel even longer than you guys, I know this is a giant step in this direction.

Cheers – Jason and Su



Blackmur's

Athabasca Fishing Lodges

"Where Fishing Dreams Come True"



December 15, 2008

To Robin and Arlene,

*Congratulations on your new book "Northern Saskatchewan Canoe Country".
The photos really capture the beauty of Saskatchewan's north.*

We are especially pleased to see that our part of the country around Lake Athabasca is well represented. The book is proving to be quite a hit, not only with canoeists, but with anyone interested in experiencing the north. Guests at our lodge who look through the book are always surprised at the variety of incredible scenery we have in the north. Several of our guests, most of whom come from the United States, have bought copies of the book as souvenirs of their visit and many have bought multiple copies to use as gifts when they get home.

Your book is certainly helping to make more people aware of northern Saskatchewan.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Cliff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Cliff Blackmur
Owner/operator*