

**Abstract Submission for 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian River Heritage Conference**

Title of Presentation:

Case study for: Building an alliance for management of the Churchill River in  
Saskatchewan

Category: Community Engagement

Presenter:

Janette Hamilton  
Saskatchewan Environment  
Parks Branch

## Abstract

The Churchill River through Lac La Ronge Provincial Park is a river of significance. This river has a long history of sustaining life for First Nations people, as a transportation route especially for the European fur traders as they moved into the interior and today as a source of recreation for many people and as a northern symbol or icon.

Heavy use by recreational and traditional users is having a negative impact on the river and its environs. As well, the care and protection of Saskatchewan's oldest building, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Stanley Mission, which is located in this corridor, is a concern.

Originally nominated as a Canadian Heritage river in the 1990s it has yet to move forward to the next stage, preparation of a management plan, due to lack of support by First Nations.

Against this background it has become a priority for government and First Nations to work cooperatively to plan and manage activities for the protection of the river and its cultural and natural resources first within Lac La Ronge Provincial Park and then hopefully beyond.

The presentation will look at how we (SK government and Lac La Ronge Indian Band-Stanley Mission) are building a working relationship and improving our mutual trust as we work on river stewardship issues and improving cultural resource protection and presentation. As well, the presentation will address what is currently happening to create understanding and gain support for again considering heritage river designation as an option.