



## Heart of the Continent Partnership

*Working together to sustain and celebrate the lakes, forests and communities on the Ontario/Minnesota border*



I am writing to invite you and your organization to consider contributing to HOCP's voluntary annual dues. Your annual support makes a huge difference for helping HOCP continue its mission to sustain and celebrate this wonderful cross-border region through collaboration. Most helpful to us would be if you can respond by the end of the first quarter, 2019. Thanks so much.

Heart of the Continent's ongoing efforts help connect this vast and amazing area culturally and as an ecosystem of interconnected lakes and rivers and a shared inland sea. Branding our area has mutual benefits that can create and maintain strong relationships and partnerships that can share in knowledge and prosperity. Public-private partnerships like Heart of the Continent that include stakeholders from government, private industry, tourism, local communities, non-profit clubs and organizations are vital for improvement in stakeholder relations, leveraging funds, marketing and long term sustainability. Our partnership with National Geographic Mapguide Division – the Geotourism Initiative – continues to help brand our area as a world class destination. [www.traveltheheart.org](http://www.traveltheheart.org)

You can still get your business, favorite nature spot, brewery or historical site identified on this interactive map website! Many locals and tourists use the website to plan a unique experience throughout the Heart. Please contact Chris Stromberg if you would like help getting your "spot" on the website: 1-807-598-1074.

We continue to make good steps forward by hosting Recreational/Tourism workshops, a science symposium and land managers meetings that have all been successful at sharing interests, obstacles and strategy - all while collaborating to achieve common goals. A second science symposium in April is one of the events planned for 2019 as well as becoming the world's largest dark sky destinations to promote visitors from around the world to re-discover the night skies not visible in many parts of the world. Thank you so much for your consideration. We look forward to the continued collaborations with you as we use this tool in the years ahead as a way to build our region and strengthen our ability to partner with each other.

And we're asking for your support for the coming year:

**Annual Dues Renewal:** It's time once again to renew your voluntary annual dues to the Heart of the Continent Partnership. The level of dues paid is voluntary and on a sliding scale. Each partner chooses the level that works for them. We encourage you to make as strong a show of support as you can.

**Use of Funds:** The funds are used to cover general operating expenses of HOCP, as laid out and approved in an annual budget, especially coordinator hours and meeting costs. Level of dues paid will have no bearing on the influence that the various partners will have in HOCP. All will participate on an equal basis, regardless of level of dues paid, in all HOCP efforts, decisions and initiatives.

**Annual Dues Levels:**

Supporting Partner:	\$1000 - \$5000 per year
Sustaining Partner:	\$500 - \$999 per year
Associate Partner:	\$100 - \$499 per year
Participating Partner:	\$10 - \$99 per year

**Payment:** Please send cheques by 3/31/19,

**From Canada**

**Please make cheques payable to: Atikokan Economic Development Corporation  
Attn/Memo HOCP Membership dues  
Box 218 214 Main St W. Atikokan, ON CANADA P0T 1C0**

**From the U.S.**

**Please make cheques payable to Backus Community Center/HOCP, 900 Fifth Street,  
International Falls, MN 56649**

We will be glad to send you an invoice, as requested. Also, please email us, at the address below, to inquire about an electronic payment.

Thank you for your participation in and support of the work of Heart of the Continent Partnership. Please give me a call if you have questions or concerns:

1-807-597-2757 or

1-218-464-2941