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DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES



January 1st, 2026

To: Prof Karl Butler, VP Atlantic Geoscience Society

RE: Nomination of Dr Sheila Watters for the Laing Ferguson Award for Distinguished Service

Dr. Sheila Watters consults through GeoExplorations Inc. in various parts of Canada, including extensively Atlantic Canada. I have known Sheila since 1984 and I keenly remember how passionate she was about her work and studies in southern New Brunswick. I became reacquainted with Sheila 25 years ago, while we were both involved with the first Geological Survey of Canada and New Brunswick Geological Survey led federal Targeted Geoscience Initiative; some of that included public presentations. Much more recently (just over 10 years ago), she did consult for a company I was affiliated with and became familiar again with her level of engagement in the community with respect to geoscience awareness, especially in the region in southern New Brunswick, in particular in the Sussex region.

Sheila has been involved in our Society for as long as I can remember and has been quite generous with her time. Currently she is a Councillor with the AGS, which has also been for quite a while, i.e. decades I recall, has held various roles in AGS, including helping organize the Travelling Speaker Series (free, virtual public talks) for several years, where she helped organize – coordinate and advertise these talks and do introductions in some cases. Sheila's biggest role in the region is her long-standing efforts at Outreach in her community in southern New Brunswick; she has done this with other keen people, like Mark Connell and Don Hattie and early on with Dr Arie Ruitenbergh. Her intimate knowledge of the geology of the region, in particular around Sussex, has helped notably increase geoscience awareness for people of all ages in those communities she has engaged. Sheila has built a demonstration set of rock, minerals, and maps to help with those extended outreach efforts; these are very instructive at many levels and enhance engagement and appreciation of all age groups. I have enjoyed this firsthand at the early fall Sussex Balloon festival, where our AGS booth in the Geoscience tent has attracted many thousands over the years it has run. She is always prepared and is engaging with everyone and always has been a joy to volunteer with. It is not easy being a consultant and taking time to volunteer at that level, heavy lifting for our society. I very much appreciate that as I try to be involved with the Sussex balloon festival too, when I don't have a conflict with field work.

In addition to these roles, she helped one of my recent PhD students (and myself) a lot in understanding the geology of the Cape Spencer area in southern New Brunswick. Sheila has also served her professional community (APEGNB) as well. This letter is supported by a further detailed Letter of Support from Dr. Kathleen Thorne, Director of the New Brunswick Geological Survey, as well as comments during the nomination process from Prof. Robert Raeside, who was strongly supportive of this nomination. Therefore, I am very proud to nominate Sheila for the prestigious Laing Ferguson Distinguished Service Award. I very much look forward to continuing working with Sheila on various Outreach activities in the region well into the future; Thanks Sheila!

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Lentz". The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dave Lentz