

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability
in Higher Education (AASHE)
213 ½ N. Limestone, Lexington, KY 40507

August 20, 2011

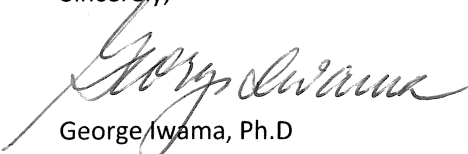
Dear AASHE STARS Program Staff,

Located in a spectacular setting with an abundance of natural resources and unmatched recreational opportunities, the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) understands the diverse and intricate importance of our ecosystems. We understand that the natural environment sustains the economic, health, and cultural well-being of our communities. This is reflected in our teaching, research, campus operations and community engagement. A strong connection to the environment and an understanding of sustainability is simply who we are as northerners and as Canada's Green University™ we are committed to the continual integration of sustainability into our teaching, research and operational activities.

In just a few short years, UNBC has naturally emerged as a small but powerful leader in sustainability. In 2009 we installed Canada's first university-owned wood pellet heating system, which showcases the use of bio-energy as a sustainable, carbon-neutral energy source. In 2010, we expanded our involvement with bioenergy to include a Biomass Gasification System to provide heat to our core campus buildings in Prince George; reducing our previous fossil fuel consumption by about 85%. In addition to creating an array of educational and interdisciplinary research opportunities, our Bioenergy projects also serve as important demonstration sites for community sustainability and renewable energy systems – this distinct approach to sustainability was recognized by AASHE as the top Campus Sustainability Case Study in 2010. Receiving this award served as confirmation that our sustainability efforts are on target, and an inspiration to continue in our efforts. This year we have furthered our commitment to sustainability leadership by pledging to be a *"leader in renewable energy"*, a goal identified in our most recent University Plan.

I am pleased to affirm that UNBC's submission to the STARS program is accurate, complete and representative of our commitment to sustainability. We are proud to be a member of AASHE and a Charter Participant of the STARS self-assessment framework. UNBC's participation in STARS has been instrumental in helping establish a baseline of sustainability which will assist us in setting targets and monitoring progress towards our sustainability-related goals.

Sincerely,



George Iwama, Ph.D
President and Vice-Chancellor