

From:

Jeff & Liz Craik

Kaleden, BC V0H 1K0

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres (1.95 ha) are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest. The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent for the following reasons:

- 1) The KVR trail is an extremely important amenity for non-motorized recreation for both local people and visitors; however, since it is the only possible access to the Sickle Point property, if the property were built on, hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders would have to contend with vehicles. Aside from being dangerous it would most certainly would seriously reduce the value of the trail for recreation.
- 2) We've lived above the KVR trail for almost 30 years, over the last 10-15 yrs we've noticed more activity near and around Sickle Point, ruining the habitat that lives in that area.
- 3) The KVR trail is historical, if development is allowed along the KVR trail and in the Sickle Point area it will dramatically decrease the beauty of the lakeshore. We're all on septic here because it's rural. Placing housing on Sickle Point will make it an environmental nightmare. There is no way at this time that they can get to Sickle Point without driving illegally on the KVR which would be developing KVR into a street and once again losing a part of BC's history so someone can build their McMansion (s) There are plenty of other places to develop in our area.

- 4) The way that the previous owner illegally tried to develop the area was shady which is probably why he went into receivership. This shouldn't be rewarded. It should be put back as a wetland. Owls, bald eagles, beautiful other raptures, wildlife I've never seen before live along the shores of our Skaha Lake, they fly over our house every day, diving the lake for food, it's a total shame that this is all going to go away because of more development.

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Yours Truly

Jeff & Liz Craik

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 11:36 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: Please help Save Sickle Point

From: Shannon Marfleet
Sent: March 31, 2021 11:30 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.gov; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>
Subject: Please help Save Sickle Point

Dear Minister Conroy,

I am extremely concerned about the upcoming purchase and development of Sickle Point, the last wetland riparian area left on Skaha lake, in the South Okanagan BC. It is a valuable ecological area which is home to both endangered animal and plant species. Wetlands are critical to prevent flooding and shoreline erosion which are increasing due to climate change in our area.

In addition to the vast environmental benefits Sickle Point provides, any development of Sickle Point will result in the necessity of a road being built on the KVR non-motorized trail. This is a highly used trail that connects neighbouring towns that will no longer be safe for pedestrians, bikers and horseback riders. There is no alternate route that can replace it and it's essential that we maintain the integrity of this trail by avoiding all development on Sickle Point.

I would like to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of Sickle Point. The cost to purchase the land is approximately \$2.5 million and while we've received almost \$300,000 in pledges from concerned citizens, we have a long way to go. This is likely the last opportunity we have to preserve this important wildlife habitat. I also request a stay on development of Sickle Point under the Environmental and Land Use Act.

Yours truly,

Shannon Marfleet
Kaleden BC

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 11:39 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

-----Original Message-----

From: alex morrison
Sent: April 1, 2021 7:31 AM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; savesicklepoint@gmail.com
Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point.

My parents, who lived in Kaleden, along with many neighbours took up this fight in the early 2000s when Mel Reeves the owner of Sickle Point applied for a development permit. My parents were not typically "joiners" but they recognized the many reasons why development of Sickle Point would be a disaster. And so they eagerly joined the group of Kaeden neighbours that initiated the first wave of activism to save Sickle Point back in 2006 or so, and tirelessly advocated for its protection.

Sadly my parents both died in 2013 and so are no longer able to fight the fight alongside their neighbours, but they are with them in spirit.

So my sister and I are continuing our parents quest to save this invaluable little patch of land, and we feel it will be a legacy that all citizens of BC will be proud of.

In addition to the explanation below, I would also like to point out that the Okanagan Basin Water Board has predicted an increase in the unpredictability and severity of flood events on Okanagan Lake due to a number of factors including climate change.

With the euphemistically described "managed retreat" of residents in flood ravaged Grand Forks, and taking into account the OBWB's predictions for the Okanagan, is it really a wise decision to allow development on a piece of land like Sickle Point?

This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest. The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely

the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent for the reasons mentioned above:

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Sincerely,

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Alex

Alexandra Morrison

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 11:41 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: Kaleden, BC

From: Louise Raven
Sent: April 1, 2021 9:33 AM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; savesicklepoint@gmail.com
Subject: Kaleden, BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Conroy:

I live in Kaleden BC, a small community that sits along side Skaha Lake, about 10 minutes south of Penticton. I am honored to have the privilege of living in such a beautiful section of our Province.

I'm writing you Minister Conroy, as I (we) need your help.

There is a small piece of land here in Kaleden called Sickle Point, it's the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the land is privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest. I would like to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point.

Time is of the essence for the conservation of Sickle Point for the following reasons:

1. As long as the land remains in private hands, especially if building is allowed, the chances of its value for wildlife returning are essentially zero;
2. While there has been very serious degradation of the Point's natural habitat values, such wetland-riparian areas can be restored quite rapidly through natural re-growth combined with knowledgeable restoration action;
3. The Provincially endangered (Red-listed) Water Birch - Wild Rose community covering part of the property is critical habitat for the federally listed (Endangered) Yellow-breasted Chat. Other Species at Risk (SAR) at Sickle Point are Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Rattlesnake, Pallid Bat, Gopher Snake, and Western Screech-Owl. As well, the Point has areas of shallow water that support cattail and bulrush stands now rare along the Okanagan lakes chain and critical habitat for a wide range of wildlife and fish;
4. The Sickle Point site holds great possibility for future public education and school programs on the ecology of the valley.

For 30 year, actions of different owners have devastated Sickle Point's ecological and habitat values. These include:

- an illegal unauthorized road built through the Crown wetlands between the Kettle Valley Railway (KVR) right-of-way and the lake;
- further unauthorized illegal clearing of the regrown vegetation and dumping of fill in the same area;
- wholesale levelling of the Ponderosa pine, (threatened) Black cottonwood, and riparian shrubbery on the main part of the property and into the Crown Provincial lands of the shoreline; and
- no control of non-native invasive plant species that make it difficult for native species to regrow and provide new habitat for wildlife including nesting birds.

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

I also request that our Government place an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Sincerely,

Louise Raven

Kaleden, BC. V0H 1K0

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 11:43 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From: Franca Redivo
Sent: April 1, 2021 9:59 AM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; savesicklepoint@gmail.com
Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest.

The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

In addition to the above points, I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent for the following reasons:

- Regular and frequent motorized traffic must not be permitted on the Trans-Canada Trail. This is a recreational trail and should remain free of motorized vehicles. That would no longer be the case were the land developed. Secondly, the work needed to permit regular motorized traffic would cause further damage to the shoreline of the lake - a travesty all on its own.
- The uniqueness of this piece of nature must be allowed to persist. It should not be subject to either commercial or private development and therefore it must be preserved by the government of the people.
- We are trying to save our planet - and saving land from development is a step in the right direction.

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the

Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Sincerely,

Franca Redivo

P.S. I grew up on the opposite shore from Sickle Point and was so gratified when the Skaha Bluffs became a provincial park. Please continue to preserve the very special places in the Okanagan. Let's heed Joni Mitchell's warning: "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone - they paved paradise and put in a parking lot."

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 11:44 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer Keates
Sent: April 1, 2021 10:59 AM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; savesicklepoint@gmail.com
Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest.

The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

Conservation of Sickle Point is urgent!

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

I also, request there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Keates

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca
Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca
Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 11:46 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

-----Original Message-----

From: Tammy Scott
Sent: April 1, 2021 1:44 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; savesicklepoint@gmail.com
Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Conroy:

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The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent for the following reasons:

Part of living a healthy, active lifestyle involves having interesting, ecologically significant areas to walk and cycle by. This fulfills both of these requirements beautifully. Without the natural environs to support the wildlife that are so stressed in our ever burgeoning cities, we will surely all be lost.

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Sincerely,

Tammy Scott
Penticton, BC

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca
Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca
Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 11:48 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

-----Original Message-----

From: Deb & Chad Wetter
Sent: April 1, 2021 2:05 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; savesicklepoint@gmail.com
Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Conroy:

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The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent for the following reasons:

[You honestly cannot find an exact duplicate of this property and sandy lake front (so much sand in the water area with no rock, tree roots or mud) anywhere else on Skaha lake. It is a real "gem" of a spot to be sure and save for future generations! Thank you. Chjad & Deb Wetter O.K. Falls]

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Sincerely,

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 11:50 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: Sickle Point Conservation Skaha Lake Kaleden BC

From: niall davidson
Sent: April 1, 2021 8:55 PM
To: Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Sickle Point Conservation Skaha Lake Kaleden BC

From: niall davidson
Sent: April 1, 2021 8:54 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Sickle Point Conservation Skaha Lake Kaleden BC
From:

Niall Davidson

Kaleden BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres (1.95 ha) are in receivership and private developers are showing interest. A recent debacle near Kaleden beach with old CN Rail property developed showed how the community can be damaged when developers are unchecked in scarce habitat.

The local community has been strongly against the private development of Sickle Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

Marsh territory is critical for biodiversity and clean water. Several communities, including Kaleden and OK Falls draw their drinking water supply downstream from this natural water filter.

Over 300 people have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity

disappears, we need the help of your government, who has voiced support for environmental issues before, to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat thus supporting biodiversity in the Okanagan, one of Canada's most biodiverse regions.

I request an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Niall Davidson

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickie Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

-----Original Message-----

From: Monika Staub
Sent: April 1, 2021 10:30 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; savesicklepoint@gmail.com
Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickie Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickie Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest.

The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

I feel that conservation of Sickie Point is urgent for the following reasons:

- To preserve the natural beauty of the riparian wetlands.
- To protect the endangered species of birds including the yellow-breasted chat and other species at risk such as Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Screech-Owl and the Gopher snake.
- Prevent erosion and water pollution resulting from destruction of wetlands and subsequent construction at this site.
- To preserve the KVR trail for continued recreation by locals and visitors.
- It is the right thing to do to promote the health of people, animals and the environment.

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickie Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever. Please don't "pave paradise to put up a parking lot".

Sincerely,
Monika Staub
Campbell River, BC

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca
Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca
Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 11:54 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

-----Original Message-----

From: SHIRLEY COOK
Sent: April 2, 2021 10:02 AM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; savesicklepoint@gmail.com
Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest.

The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent for the following reasons:

Not only from an ecological point of view, our water issues and conserving our beautiful lake....Sickle Point's pristine location it is important for Kaleden to conserve this valuable piece of property for now and our future generations. It is time to save this area!!!!

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Sincerely,
Tom and Shirley Cook
Kaleden, BC.

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca
Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca
Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 11:55 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: Save Sickle Point The Jewel of Kaleden

From: Leigh Trusler
Sent: April 2, 2021 9:08 PM
To: Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; savesicklepoint@gmail.com; Premier@gov.bc.ca; FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Save Sickle Point The Jewel of Kaleden

From:

[Leigh Trusler]

[Kaleden, BC V0H1K0]

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres (1.95 ha) are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest. The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent for the following reasons:

It is the only wetland area on Skaha Lake providing habitat for reptiles, amphibians, fish, and it teeming with birds. It is unique as a landform and really is the jewel of Kaleden and Skaha Lake.

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Yours Truly

[Leigh Trusler]

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 12:01 PM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From: Carola Dovbniak
Sent: April 3, 2021 6:46 AM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Premier@gov.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; savesicklepoint@gmail.com
Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From:
Cara Dovbniak
Erskine, Alberta

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest. The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent for the following reasons:

It is the LAST riparian wetland left on Skaha Lake!

It is a critical habitat for a federally listed endangered species, the Yellow Breasted Chat, and a number of other critical species in the area, Western Screech owl, Pallid bat, Western rattlesnake.

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Sincerely,
Cara Dovbniak

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickie Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 12:07 PM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From: Dave & Arlene Sloan
Sent: April 3, 2021 8:05 AM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; savesicklepoint@gmail.com
Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Conroy:

We are writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest.

The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

Sickle Point must be conserved. This is our one and only opportunity to do so and we must act now.

Our family has been living in the area for over 70 years. My parents immigrated from Scotland in 1948. They looked across Canada for the perfect location to settle, raise a family and to farm. They choose Skaha Lake. 73 years later, we continue to farm the land along the shores of Skaha Lake. We have clean water supply from the lake from which we are able to irrigate our land. Fully functioning wetlands help filter pollutants as well as preventing flooding and shoreline erosion.

We have welcomed 2 more generations onto the farm. Over the years, we have seen so many of our green spaces disappear. We must preserve this land for our children and grandchildren and their children. Sickle Point is the last wetland-riparian area left on Skaha Lake and one of the few remaining in the Okanagan. The Sickle Point site holds great possibility for future public education and school programs on the ecology of the valley

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Sincerely,

Dave & Arlene Sloan

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Les Clarke
Sent: April 3, 2021 3:16 PM
To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development,
Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier; Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure; Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change; Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen; Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay; Info E-Box; Save Sickle Point Committee
Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC
Attachments: DSC_0355 (2).jpg; Sickle Point 020521e.jpg; Sickle Point 020521c.jpg; Sickle Point Reflections.jpg; DSC_0834 (2).jpg

Les Clarke

Kaleden, BC V0H 1K0

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres (1.95 ha) are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest. The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent for the following reasons which have been well documented in the ongoing discussions with all levels of government:

a) The bottom line

- As long as the land remains in private hands, especially if building is allowed, the chances of its value for wildlife returning are essentially zero.
- While there has been very serious degradation of the Point's natural habitat values, such wetland-riparian areas can be restored quite rapidly through natural re-growth combined with knowledgeable restoration action.

b) Ecological significance

- Sickle Point is the last wetland-riparian area left on Skaha Lake and one of the few remaining in the Okanagan.
- In the South Okanagan Similkameen Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Sickle Point is given its highest ranking for ecological values.
- The Provincially endangered (Red-listed) Water Birch - Wild Rose community covering part of the property is critical habitat for the federally listed (Endangered) Yellow-breasted Chat. Other Species at Risk (SAR) at Sickle Point are Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Rattlesnake, Pallid Bat, Gopher Snake, and Western Screech-Owl. As well, the Point has areas of shallow water that support cattail and bulrush stands now rare along the Okanagan lakes chain and critical habitat for a wide range of wildlife and fish.
- A hydrological study (February 2020) done for the Okanagan Basin Water Board concluded that flooding of Skaha Lake is likely to increase significantly as climate change continues. Recent mapping estimates there is a 15% chance that the area of the Point will be flooded within the next 30 years. Fully functioning wetlands help prevent flooding and shoreline erosion. They also filter pollutants from water.

b) Cultural importance

- Sickle Point is culturally important to the people of snpink'tn, Syilx Nation having been used for hundreds of generations for a variety of purposes. The place name for Sickle Point in the nsyilxcen language is: ncaquq?wltn which means a place to land or park a canoe. The people of snpink'tn have been opposed to development at ncaquq?iwlt'n ever since this became an issue.
- The KVR trail is an extremely important amenity for non-motorized recreation for both local people and visitors; however, since it is the only possible access to the Sickle Point property, if the property were build on, hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders would have to contend with vehicles. Aside from being dangerous it would most certainly would seriously reduce the value of the trail for recreation.
- The Sickle Point site holds great possibility for future public education and school programs on the ecology of the valley
- as an avid photographer the Sickle Point area is teeming with photo opportunities of many things including birds, plants, animals, insects and stunning scenic vistas.

c) Current situation

Since 1991, actions of different owners have devastated Sickle Point's ecological and habitat values. These include:

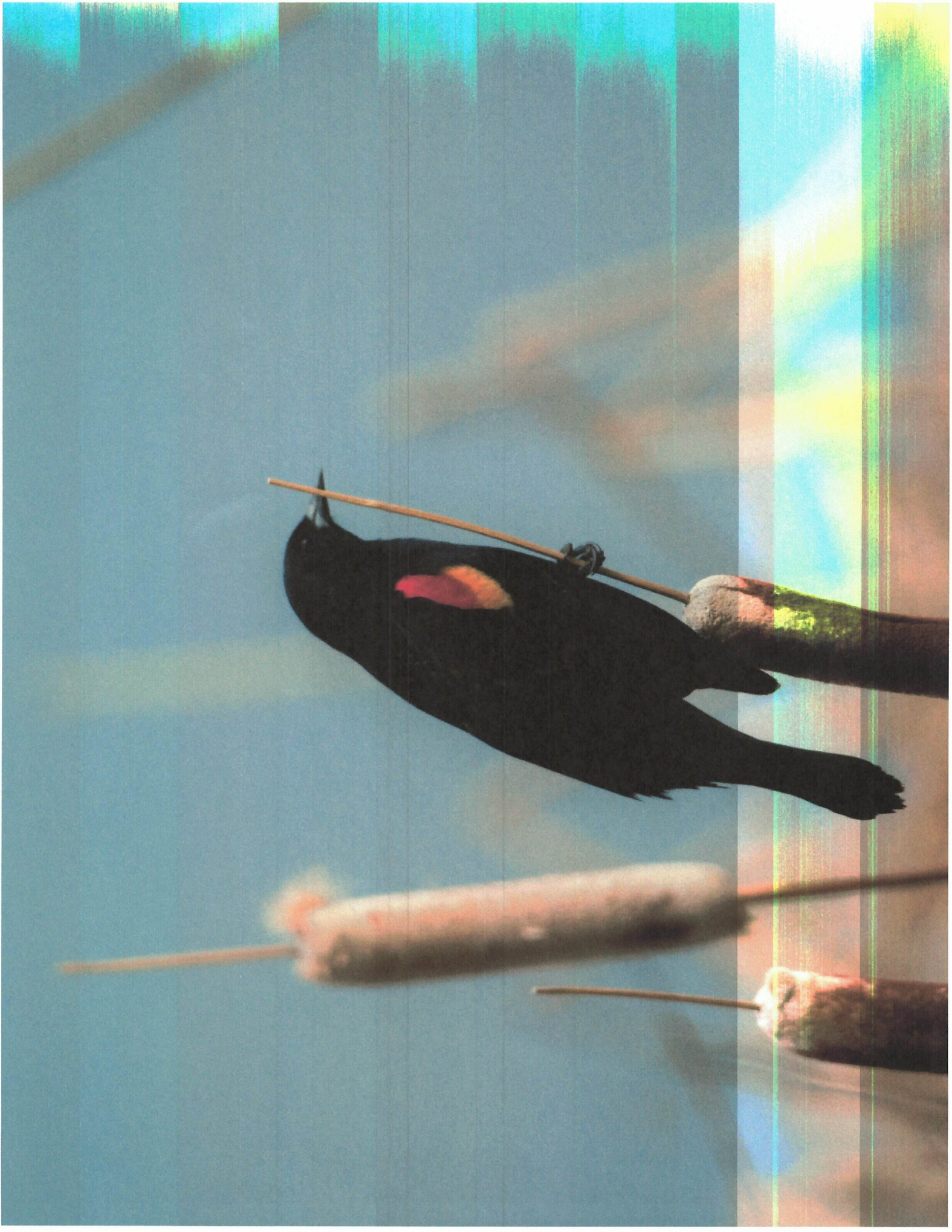
- an unauthorized road built through the Crown wetlands between the Kettle Valley Railway (KVR) right-of-way and the lake;
- further unauthorized, clearing of the regrown vegetation and dumping of fill in the same area;
- wholesale levelling of the Ponderosa pine, (threatened) Black cottonwood, and riparian shrubbery on the main part of the property and into the Crown Provincial lands of the shoreline; and
- no control of non-native invasive plant species that make it difficult for native species to regrow and provide new habitat for wildlife including nesting birds.

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Yours Truly

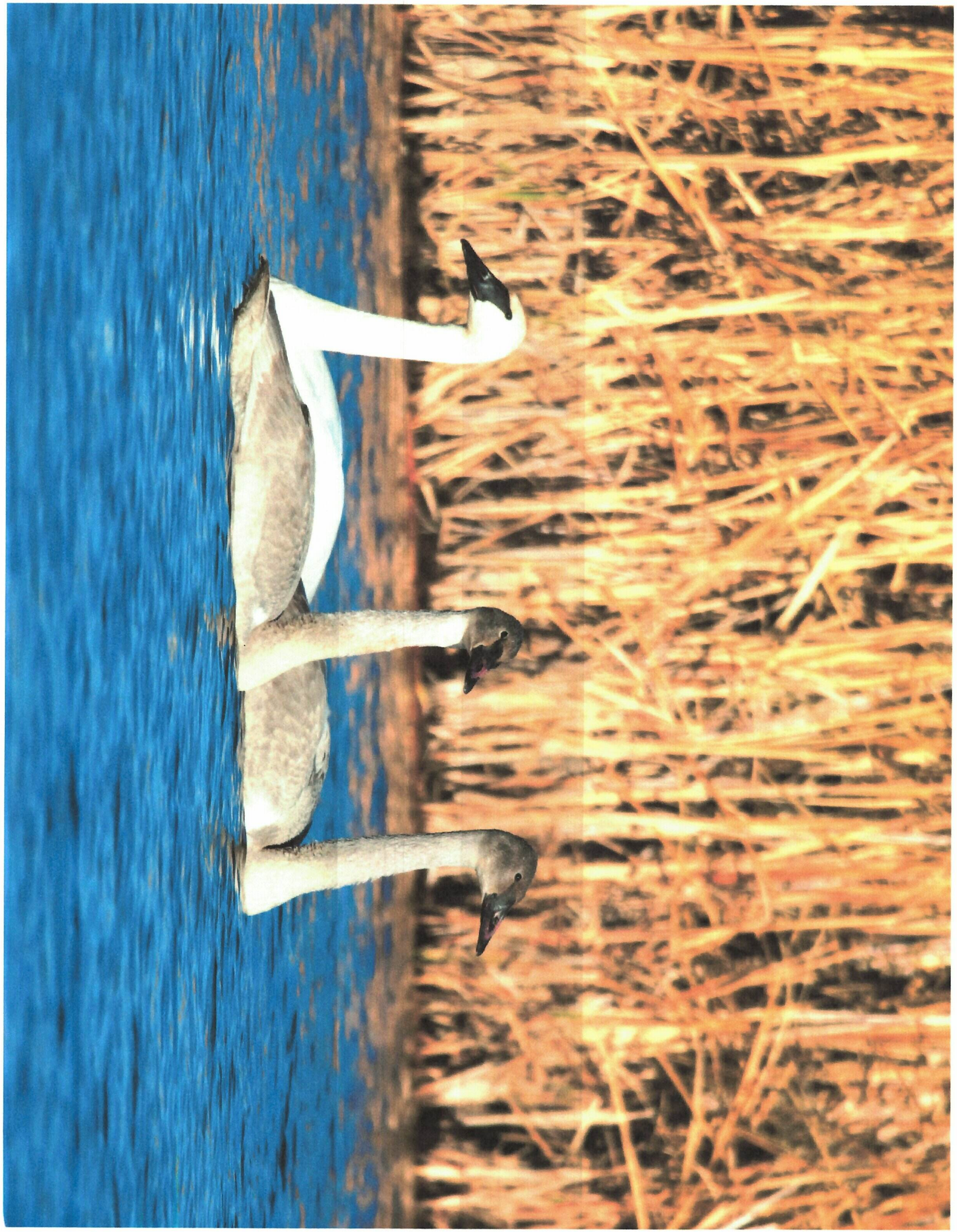
Les Clarke











Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 12:16 PM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From: Kathy Clarke
Sent: April 3, 2021 3:41 PM
To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier <Premier@gov.bc.ca>; Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure <Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen <Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay <Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca>; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; Save Sickle Point Committee <savesicklepoint@gmail.com>
Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From:

Kathy Clarke
Kaleden, BC V0H 1K0

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres (1.95 ha) are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest. The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent for the following reasons:

a) The bottom line

- As long as the land remains in private hands, especially if building is allowed, the chances of its value for wildlife returning are essentially zero.

- While there has been very serious degradation of the Point's natural habitat values, such wetland-riparian areas can be restored quite rapidly through natural re-growth combined with knowledgeable restoration action.

b) Ecological significance

- Sickle Point is the last wetland-riparian area left on Skaha Lake and one of the few remaining in the Okanagan.

- In the South Okanagan Similkameen Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Sickle Point is given its highest ranking for ecological values.

- The Provincially endangered (Red-listed) Water Birch - Wild Rose community covering part of the property is critical habitat for the federally listed (Endangered) Yellow-breasted Chat. Other Species at Risk (SAR) at Sickle Point are Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Rattlesnake, Pallid Bat, Gopher Snake, and Western Screech-Owl. As well, the Point has areas of shallow water that support cattail and bulrush stands now rare along the Okanagan lakes chain and critical habitat for a wide range of wildlife and fish.

- A hydrological study (February 2020) done for the Okanagan Basin Water Board concluded that flooding of Skaha Lake is likely to increase significantly as climate change continues. Recent mapping estimates there is a 15% chance that the area of the Point will be flooded within the next 30 years. Fully functioning wetlands help prevent flooding and shoreline erosion. They also filter pollutants from water.

b) Cultural importance

- Sickle Point is culturally important to the people of snpink'tn, Syilx Nation having been used for hundreds of generations for a variety of purposes. The place name for Sickle Point in the nsyilxcen language is: ncaquq?wltn which means a place to land or park a canoe. The people of snpink'tn have been opposed to development at ncaquq?iwltm ever since this became an issue.

- The KVR trail is an extremely important amenity for non-motorized recreation for both local people and visitors; however, since it is the only possible access to the Sickle Point property, if the property were build on, hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders would have to contend with vehicles. Aside from being dangerous it would most certainly would seriously reduce the value of the trail for recreation.

- The Sickle Point site holds great possibility for future public education and school programs on the ecology of the valley

c) Current situation

Since 1991, actions of different owners have devastated Sickle Point's ecological and habitat values. These include:

- an unauthorized road built through the Crown wetlands between the Kettle Valley Railway (KVR) right-of-way and the lake;

- further unauthorized, clearing of the regrown vegetation and dumping of fill in the same area;

- wholesale levelling of the Ponderosa pine, (threatened) Black cottonwood, and riparian shrubbery on the main part of the property and into the Crown Provincial lands of the shoreline; and

- no control of non-native invasive plant species that make it difficult for native species to regrow and provide new habitat for wildlife including nesting birds.

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Yours Truly

Kathy Clarke

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From: David Smyth
Sent: April 4, 2021 9:23 AM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; savesicklepoint@gmail.com
Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest.

The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent for the following reasons:

[ADD YOUR REASONS]

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Sincerely,

David Smyth

+++++

David Smyth

Kaleden, British Columbia

V0H 1K0

+++++

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

From:

Fred Worm

Penticton , BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: Protection of Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

Dear Minister Conroy:

I wish to express my concern for the future of Sickle Point on Skaha Lake near Kaleden BC. There is an opportunity to save this marsh habitat, which is the only remaining lakefront of its type on the lake. Below are a few of the many reasons we must act now to save this precious resource.

- Sickle Point is an important wetland habitat for endangered plant, animal and aquarian life. Wetlands reduce the risk of flooding and provide filtration of pollutants. Natural habitat is under extreme pressure throughout the Okanagan due to increased development. There is an opportunity to save this resource by purchasing the property so that it can be protected for future generations.
- Sickle Point is culturally important to the Syilx Nation who have made use of the area and protected it for countless generations. The snpink'tn people have been opposed to development of this site due to its cultural and ecological significance. The Syilx Nations position on these unceded lands must be respected in the spirit of reconciliation.
- The KVR trail which is adjacent to the Sickle Point property is an important recreational resource for the local population and for tourism from other areas of BC and elsewhere. Tourism is critically important to the local economy and is likely to grow in importance in the future.

On a personal note I have recently move to Penticton from Ontario. I visited the area numerous times prior to choosing to live in Penticton. Skaha Lake and the KVR trail were major factors in deciding to move here.

I have pledged financial support, along with many others, to help in the purchase of the property because I recognize its ecological, cultural and economic importance. I urge your Ministry and the BC Government to provide financial support for the purchase of this property to protect it for future generations. If we fail to act to protect it now this opportunity will be lost.

Yours Truly

Fred Worm

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 12:22 PM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: Save Sickle Point

From: Gwyneth Foster-Newell
Sent: April 4, 2021 4:12 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; savesicklepoint@gmail.com
Subject: Save Sickle Point

April 4, 2021

From:

Gwyneth A.P. Foster-Newell

Peachland, BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

Dear Minister Conroy:

I retired & resettled in Peachland 10 yrs ago. The Okanagan Valley has always been special to me since we always holidayed here with our young children for a couple of decades.

Prior to parenting I took many interesting & informative trips around our wonderful world-including Europe, Israel & the Middle East, Across Asia, Australia, New Zealand & Southern Africa. Environment, Nature & Views have been a big part of my explorations— they fascinate me & fill my being with wonder & amazement!! It seems to me we have reached a time in our world that we must all take stock of our gifts from the environment & do our utmost to maintain & improve them for those now here to enjoy & learn

from. And of course future generations must inherit our beauty in order to be motivated to conserve & preserve!

Like many others, I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickie Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

I know that I am one of many who have written to you about supporting the preservation of Sickie Point before time runs out.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickie Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Trusting you will understand the significance of our request.

Gwyneth A.P. Foster-Newell

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change
ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen
Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay
Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickie Point Committee savesickiepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 12:30 PM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: Save Sickle Point

From: Daniel Newell
Sent: April 4, 2021 4:26 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; savesicklepoint@gmail.com
Subject: Save Sickle Point

April 4, 2021

From: Daniel W.H. Newell Peachland, BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy,
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development,
FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point,
Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres (1.95 ha) are privately owned, but in receivership, and other private developers are showing interest. The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this land preserved in perpetuity.

I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent for the following reasons:

- this is an important wildlife and vegetation habitat:
 - there are many animals that are supported by Sickle Point, such as the Yellow-breasted Chat, Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Rattlesnake, Pallid Bat, Gopher Snake, and Western Screech-Owl;
 - the Point has areas of shallow water that support the Water Birch (which is now Red Listed) as well as cattail and bulrush stands now rare along the Okanagan lakes chain. It provides a critical habitat for a wide range of wildlife and fish;

- it has significant natural features:
 - A hydrological study (February 2020) done for the Okanagan Basin Water Board concluded that flooding of Skaha Lake is likely to increase significantly as climate change continues. A fully functioning wetlands help prevent flooding and shoreline erosion.
 - Wetlands filter pollutants from water;
- this land has considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations:
 - Sickie Point is culturally important to the people of snpink'tn, Sylix Nation having been used for many generations. The people of snpink'tn have been opposed to development at ncaquq?iwltn ever since this became an issue;
- it will preserve the integrity of the KVH trail:
 - The KVR trail is an extremely important amenity for non-motorized recreation for both local people and visitors. The trail passes very near the point. If the point was developed, trail users will have to contend with vehicular traffic;

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickie Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Yours Truly

Daniel W. H. Newell

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickie Point Committee savesickiepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 12:33 PM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From: greg masson
Sent: April 4, 2021 5:50 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; savesicklepoint@gmail.com
Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest.

The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent for the following reasons:

This is a natural wetlands that is a stopping off point for migratory birds like Sand Hill Cranes. It a valuable piece of natural habitat for the birds, beavers, and other species that inhabit it. I have enjoyed this peaceful spot as I walked and rode my bike along the KVR trail that passes by Sickle Point for many years. The thought of a housing development on this spot is unthinkable. Not only for Sickle Point but also for the KVR trail as it would be opened up for vehicle traffic to and from Sickle Point. I am one of many others who have pledged to donate towards the purchase of this valuable property.

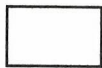
To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Sincerely,
Rita Masson
Kaleden, BC

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca
Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca
Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

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April 4, 2021

Stephen Robertson

White Rock, BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres (1.95 ha) are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest. The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent for the following reasons:

a) Ecological significance

- Sickle Point is the last wetland-riparian area left on Skaha Lake and one of the few remaining in the Okanagan.
- In the South Okanagan Similkameen Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Sickle Point is given its highest ranking for ecological values.
- The Provincially endangered (Red-listed) Water Birch - Wild Rose community covering part of the property is critical habitat for the federally listed (Endangered) Yellow-breasted Chat. Other Species at Risk (SAR) at Sickle Point are Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Rattlesnake, Pallid Bat, Gopher Snake, and Western Screech-Owl. As well, the Point has areas of shallow water that support cattail and bulrush stands now rare along the Okanagan lakes chain and critical habitat for a wide range of wildlife and fish.
- A hydrological study (February 2020) done for the Okanagan Basin Water Board concluded that flooding of Skaha Lake is likely to increase significantly as climate change continues. Recent mapping estimates there is a 15% chance that the area of the Point will be flooded within the next 30 years. Fully functioning wetlands help prevent flooding and shoreline erosion. They also filter pollutants from water.

b) Cultural importance

- Sickle Point is culturally important to the people of snpink'tn, Syilx Nation having been used for hundreds of generations for a variety of purposes. The place name for Sickle Point in the nsyilxcen language is: ncaquq'wltn which means a place to land or park a canoe. The people of snpink'tn have been opposed to development at ncaquq'iwltn ever since this became an issue.
- The KVR trail is an extremely important amenity for non-motorized recreation for both local people and visitors; however, since it is the only possible access to the Sickle Point property, if the property were build on, hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders would have to contend with vehicles. Aside from being dangerous it would most certainly would seriously reduce the value of the trail for recreation.
- The Sickle Point site holds great possibility for future public education and school programs on the ecology of the valley.

c) Current situation

Since 1991, actions of different owners have devastated Sickle Point's ecological and habitat values. These include:

- An unauthorized road built through the Crown wetlands between the Kettle Valley Railway (KVR) right-of-way and the lake.
- Further unauthorized, clearing of the regrown vegetation and dumping of fill in the same area.
- Wholesale levelling of the Ponderosa pine, (threatened) Black cottonwood, and riparian shrubbery on the main part of the property and into the Crown Provincial lands of the shoreline.
- No control of non-native invasive plant species that make it difficult for native species to regrow and provide new habitat for wildlife including nesting birds.

d) The bottom line

- As long as the land remains in private hands, especially if building is allowed, the chances of its value for wildlife returning are essentially zero.
- While there has been very serious degradation of the Point's natural habitat values, such wetland-riparian areas can be restored quite rapidly through natural re-growth combined with knowledgeable restoration action.

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for

the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickie Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Yours Truly

Stephen Robertson

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickie Point Committee savesickiepoint@gmail.com

April 4, 2021

Dan Robertson

Kaleden, BC V0H 1K0

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres (1.95 ha) are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest. The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

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within the next 30 years. Fully functioning wetlands help prevent flooding and shoreline erosion. They also filter pollutants from water.

b) Cultural importance

- Sickle Point is culturally important to the people of snpink'tn, Syilx Nation having been used for hundreds of generations for a variety of purposes. The place name for Sickle Point in the nsyilxcen language is: ncaquq'wltn which means a place to land or park a canoe. The people of snpink'tn have been opposed to development at ncaquq'iwltn ever since this became an issue.
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- While there has been very serious degradation of the Point's natural habitat values, such wetland-riparian areas can be restored quite rapidly through natural re-growth combined with knowledgeable restoration action.

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Yours Truly

Dan Robertson

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

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Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Science, Technology and Health

Okanagan College

1000 KLO Road

Kelowna, BC V1Y 4X8

Phone: (250) 862-5468

Fax: (250) 862-5430

April 5, 2021



The Honourable Katrine Conroy,
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development,
FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Conroy:

Re: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres (1.95 ha) are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest. The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent for the following reasons:

Sickle Point is a critical and threatened habitat that stands no chance of protection while it remains in private hands. The Okanagan does not need another condo development which seems to be the inevitable outcome for foreshore habitat in our region. We need to maintain and protect wetland habitat like Sickle Point as so much of this type of habitat has been destroyed already. The diversity of wildlife and ecological functions offered by the point are irreplaceable.

Science, Technology and Health

Okanagan College

1000 KLO Road
Kelowna, BC V1Y 4X8
Phone: (250) 862-5468
Fax: (250) 862-5430

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000 – I am one of those people! While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Sincerely,



Allison O'Neill, B.Sc., M.Ed., P.Eng.
Department Chair and College Professor
Water Engineering Technology

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change
ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay
Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: April 6, 2021 12:40 PM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

-----Original Message-----

From: Barbara Henniger
Sent: April 5, 2021 3:38 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; savesicklepoint@gmail.com
Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request your Ministry's and the BC government's financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickle Point. This is the last piece of such land remaining on Skaha Lake and one of the few still left in the Okanagan. At present, the 4.8 acres are privately owned, but in receivership and other private developers are showing interest.

The local community has been strongly against the private development of the Point since the 1990s. We now have what is likely the last opportunity to have this important wildlife habitat, also of considerable cultural significance for the Sylix First Nations, preserved in perpetuity primarily for its natural features.

I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent for the following reasons:

I grew up in the Penticton area in the 1960's and 1970's and there was an abundance of birds, small mammals, fish and amphibians then. There were numerous marshes to the north and west of town, which provided nesting areas for redwing blackbirds. The marshes were full of other bird life and provided food for small fish, swallows and small aquatic reptiles and amphibians. We are rapidly losing all our wildlife in the Okanagan, bit by bit. There will be nothing left for the people who follow us. 60% of all songbirds have disappeared in my lifetime in B.C. I am on 68 years old. Let that sink in.

What right do we have to destroy everything now before the children born in 2021 grow up? It is immoral. Please do the right thing and help us preserve this last little piece of marsh land on Skaha Lake.

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area, have pledged over \$300,000. While this amount is a long way from the approximately \$2.5 million asking price for the property, it indicates the importance of this piece of land to people in the Okanagan. To save this precious, increasingly rare, type of lakeshore land in the Okanagan before the opportunity disappears, we need the help of your government to purchase it so that it may be restored to its former glory as wildlife habitat.

If possible, I also request that there be an immediate stay on any development of Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act, to protect this last example of a rare habitat before it is lost forever.

Sincerely,
Barbara Henniger
Okanagan Falls, BC

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister Environment and Climate Change ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary Similkameen Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan West Kootenay Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Cc: RDOS Board of Directors info@rdos.bc.ca

Cc: Save Sickle Point Committee savesicklepoint@gmail.com