

Evelyn Kansy
Kaleden BC

March 29, 2020

Hon. Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development,

I am writing to you today about my concern for global warming and our planet. What does that have to do with you? Everything. To fix the big problems in the world we must take many small steps. I am asking you for help in what might seem globally as a small step, but is a big step locally.

I am a long time resident of a small community in the South Okanagan, called Kaleden. Kaleden is located on the shores of Skaha Lake between Penticton and Okanagan Falls. For several years we have been dealing with the threat of a development on the last remaining intact wetland along Skaha Lake known as Sickie Point. Everyone wants to live on the lakefront, but this has caused immense ecological damage to habitat for many endangered species.

The property of Sickie Point is in foreclosure and the community is trying to purchase in order to conserve this fragile wetland from development. Unfortunately our small community of 1800 people cannot raise sufficient funds for the purchase. If Sickie Point is sold and according to present zoning, an individual could build a house and a carriage house. Doesn't sound all that bad, BUT, the present owner has in the past place an application for five homes with the potential of five additional carriage houses. The problem is this 4.5-acre property doesn't have an access road to it. Years back the provincial government gave an easement on the Kettle Valley Railway, also known as The Great Trail, to the property owner. There was no consultation with residents of the area about this.

Many tourist and residents alike use the KVR trail to cycle and walk. The South Okanagan is a major tourist attraction, with great weather, wineries and endless opportunities for outdoor activities like biking on the KVR, why would the government sit back and let a piece of the KVR be destroyed. Penticton alone attracts tourists from around the world, on average 1.2 million, with an economic impact of over 100 million. What will the impact on the tourism industry be, if we continue to allow development of the lakeshore and allow the destruction of the last remaining wetland in the area to happen? These tourists come for the beauty and natural environment they can find here. Let us not sit back idly and watch this be destroyed.

Canadians, get upset when we hear about the destruction of a rain forest in South America, but meanwhile we are allowing our fragile environment is developed. How does this make sense to anyone?

I am asking you today to please look into how the provincial government could help us. We have applied to countless grants but have only received rejection letters because the cost per acre is too high. What is not being taken into consideration is the high environmental and economical impact this property has. We are doing our best to raise as much money as possible through several initiatives, but we won't reach our goal if the provincial government doesn't step in and help now.

Sincerely

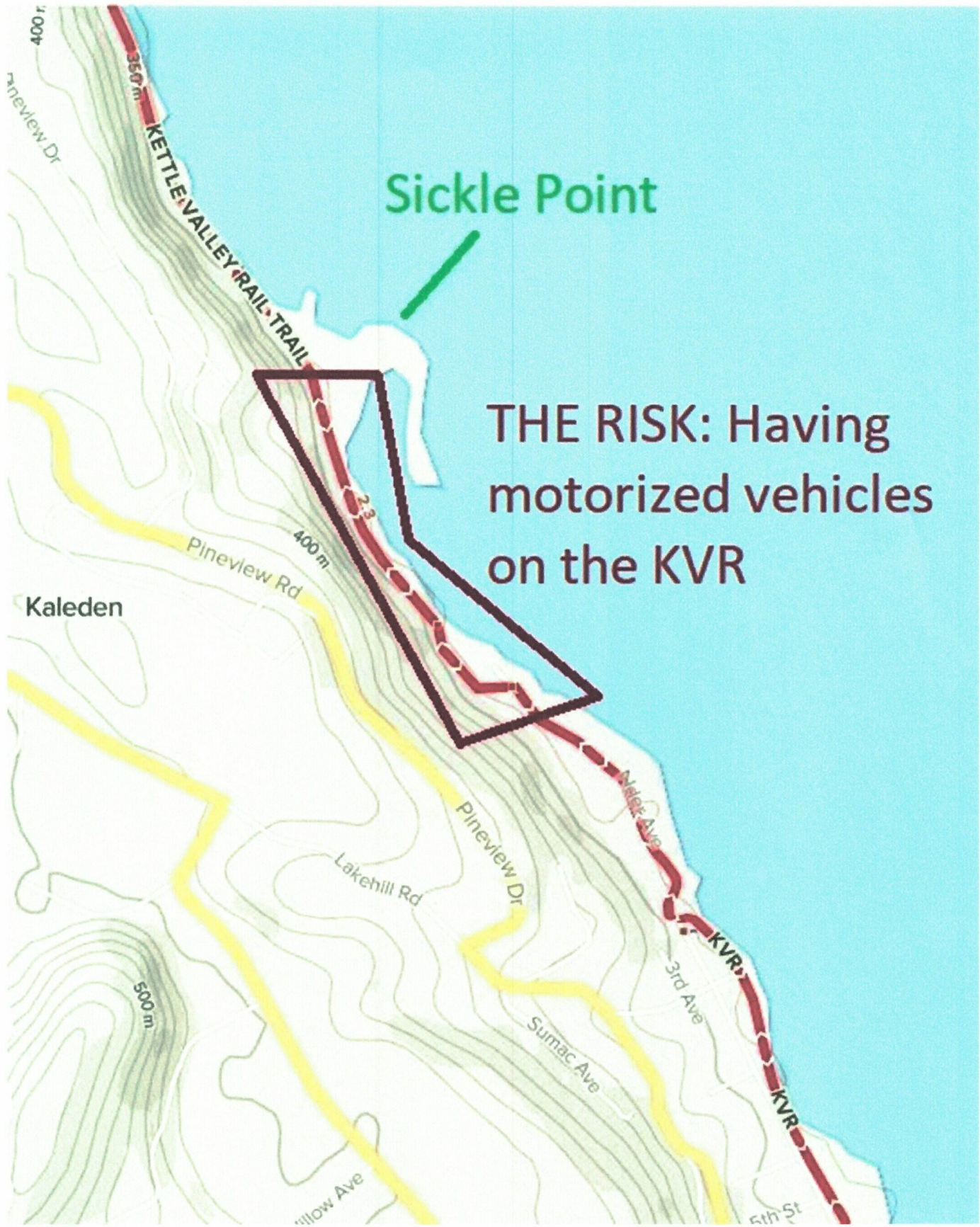
Evelyn Kansy

FOR REFERENCE PURPOSE:

- <https://www.wayblaze.com/sickle-point>
- Facebook: @stopsicklepointsubdivision
- Instagram - @savesicklepoint #savesicklepoint
- Twitter - @savesicklepoint #savesicklepoint
- <https://change.org/savesicklepoint>
- <https://savesicklepoint.nationbuilder.com/>
- <https://www.kaledencommunity.com/sicklepoint>

OUR GROWING GROUP OF SUPPORTERS

- Individual donors: currently over 300 pledges so far
- Chief and Council: Penticton Indian Band
- Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
- Richard Cannings, MP
- Roly Russell, MLA for Boundary Similkameen
- Subrina Monteith, RDOS Director Area I
- Western Wilderness Committee
- Penticton Outdoors Club
- South Okanagan Naturalists' Club
- Friends of the Penticton Oxbows
- Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance
- The Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society (OSPS)
- The Nature's Conservancy of Canada
- Southern Interior Land Trust
- Central Okanagan Land Trust



Sickle Point

THE RISK: Having motorized vehicles on the KVR

Kaleden

500 m

400 m

400 m

350 m

Pineview Rd

Lakehill Rd

Pineview Dr

Sumac Ave

3rd Ave

5th St

Willow Ave

KETTLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL

KVR

KVR

Nalek Ave

From:

Emilie Ralston

Vancouver BC

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

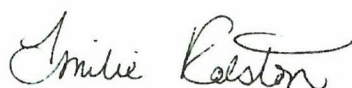
Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickie Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

Dear Minister Conroy:

I am writing to you to request financial support for the purchase of the Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat that constitute Sickie Point. The wetland functions of this area are critical in helping mitigate the changes this area will experience from climate change, both in terms of maintaining biodiversity and mitigating fluctuations in water levels. Recognizing the natural assets a wetland provides for animal and human wellbeing is an important step in demonstrating your government's leadership in climate adaptation and mitigation.

Please do all that you can to save and help others restore the ecological integrity of one of the last remaining wetland areas on Skaha lake. With your support, the community will be able to responsibly steward this area for future generations and promote sustainable tourism instead of prioritizing the private interests of developers and, likely, out-of-town buyers who have little interest in maintaining the integrity of the area.

Regards,



Emilie Ralston

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 savesickiepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: March 29, 2021 8:54 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From:
Sent: March 27, 2021 8:34 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.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

Debra Gale
Okanagan Falls, 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:

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.

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.

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.

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.
- former glory as wildlife habitat.

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

On a more personal note, I grew up in a home in Kaleden that overlooked Sickle Point. We took pictures of it every year. To say it was a special, magical place is an understatement. The changes that have occurred listed above have been heart-breaking. **I cannot emphasize enough that it is the last uninhabited point on the lake and if it is lost to a private developer it is lost forever.**

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

Debra J. Gale

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: March 29, 2021 8:55 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Protection and purchase of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Kaleden BC

From: Panda Man n Roxane Larrabee
Sent: March 27, 2021 8:41 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.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: Protection and purchase of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Kaleden BC

From:
Roxane Larrabee
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 am writing to you because I am very concerned with property located along Skaha Lake, in Kaleden.

The property known as Sickle Point, is an important habitat to many animals. Sadly, over the past 30 years several differnt owners have devistated the property, which has had drastic effects on the wildlife that depend on that land and water location.

Those various people have built an illegal access road, decimated the Ponderosa Pines that grew there and cleared the land of vegetation that is vital to many species; they also illegally dumped fill in the same area. There are many types of nesting birds that have had their habitat harmed, due to non native invasive plant species taking over and making it difficult for native species to regrow, all because various owners ignored the laws of riparian areas along the waterways. Their blatant disregard for the laws in place to protect nature and wildlife are appalling.

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.

I feel that conservation of Sickle Point is urgent to protect the area from any fiurther destruction and is

desperately needed as there is so little land left along Skaha Lake that isn't privately owned, that will allow for the birds and other wildlife to once again thrive.

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 believe our current government is able to save and protect Sickle Point. I would like to see Sickle Point become a protected habitat for local species and ask 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,

Roxane

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: March 29, 2021 8:57 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

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

From: Naemi Fiechter
Sent: March 28, 2021 1:19 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.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

From:
Naemi Fiechter
Kaleden BC

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:

- Sickle Point is the ONLY wetland-riparian area left on Skaha Lake
- Sickle Point is one of the few remaining wetlands left in the Okanagan
- It is a habitat for numerous provincially endangered species
- Wetlands help maintain the diversification of species: absolutely critical to face the future of our planet especially in regards to climate change and species loss
- It is a culturally important site that could foster valuable educational and cultural knowledge

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,

Naemi Fiechter

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: March 29, 2021 8:59 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: Purchase and Protect Sickle Point

From: Jane Hatch
Sent: March 28, 2021 3:37 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca; Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>; Save Sickle Point <savesicklepoint@gmail.com>
Subject: Purchase and Protect Sickle Point

The Honourable Katrine Conroy
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
#2 – 1006 3rd Street
Castlegar, BC V1N 3X6
FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

RE: Purchase and Protect 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 assistance for the purchase of a 4.8-acre parcel of Skaha Lake foreshore marshes and riparian habitat known as Sickle Point. The property is privately owned, but in receivership and there is interest from private developers.

Sickle Point provides critical riparian habitat for plants, birds and mammals – some of whom are Red Listed or deemed Species At Risk.

It's imperative that Sickle Point be protected because there are precious few remaining marshes along Skaha Lake's shoreline. Development would greatly reduce the ecological diversity of our area.

The south Okanagan's population is growing rapidly and pressure from development has already contributed to considerable loss of wildlife habitat. Sickle Point is an integral part of the remaining habitat.

Kaleden, the community where I live, has been voicing its opposition to the property's development for many years. Once places like Sickle Point are gone, we know they never come back.

Hundreds of people, including myself, have come together and pledged over \$300,000 to save Sickle Point. The BC Government has a unique opportunity to preserve this rare and precious lakeshore wetland forever. I respectfully urge them to join with us to purchase Sickle Point.

I would also like to request an immediate stay of any development at Sickle Point under the Environment and Land Use Act.

Yours Truly,

Jane Hatch
Kaleden, BC

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: March 29, 2021 9:03 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From: Evelyn Kansy
Sent: March 28, 2021 8:32 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.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

From:
[Henry Kansy](#)

[Kaleden, BC](#)

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:

- The loss of sensitive habitat for endangered species that live and migrate through Sickle Point.
- My wife and our grandchildren use the KVR that will be lost if Sickle Point is developed. My wife is not a comfortable bike rider and our grandchildren are very young. The idea that they might have to share the trail concerns me.
- The development of Sickle Point and the loss of the KVR trail will set a precedent and property owners, whose property is adjacent to the KVR, will all want to subdivide and have the KVR extended to these new lots. These potential properties will bring in a lot of money to a small group of individuals but will have a large negative impact on the thousands of people who use the trail at any given time as well as the environment.
- The provincial government originally purchased the land from the CP rail for the purchase of establishing a trail. This concept has blossomed and we have a large network of trails that are now

known as The Great Trail. So why is the provincial government now not doing anything to help prevent the loss of this same trail?

I request that the provincial government help with financial support so the community of Kaleden and conserve the last remaining intact Wetland along Skaha Lake and prevent the loss of the KVR trail. The government spent a lot of taxpayers money to purchase the railway and making a trail was one of the better ideas the

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.

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 Sickie Point Committee savesickiepoint@gmail.com

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: March 29, 2021 8:51 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From: Ceri Wisheart
Sent: March 27, 2021 8:36 AM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.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: 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 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:

"Great waterfronts are not dominated by residential development. Residential development will be for a small and wealthy set of people, likely those that do not even call the Okanagan their main residence. In the Okanagan most of the lake shoreline is steep cliffs with little recreation/public space capability. Sickle Point is a unique piece of land that should be preserved for the benefit of the public, both residents and visitors alike. The Skaha lake shoreline should support the Okanagan's current and future needs of healthy ecosystems, recreation, and access to nature. This direction will assist in creating a strong tourist economy while benefiting all citizens."

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,

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: March 29, 2021 9:06 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From: Paula Marfleet
Sent: March 28, 2021 8:53 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.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

From:
[WRITE YOUR NAME HERE] Paula Marfleet
[WRITE YOUR ADDRESS and email HERE] Kaleden, B.C.

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: somehow, an unauthorized road was built, as well as unauthorized clearing of the wetlands-how could this happen???? Who is held accountable for this disregard? I am a frequent hiker on this trail & it breaks my heart to think we could lose this natural beauty & have to contend with cars & development! Please save Sickle Point. Thank you!

[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, Paula Marfleet

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

Sent from my Galaxy Tab® A

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: March 29, 2021 11:23 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

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

From: Kate Twa
Sent: March 29, 2021 11:13 AM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Premier@gov.bc.ca; Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ENV.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

From:
Kate Twa

Naramata, British Columbia

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:

Simply put, we do not get a second chance to save this endangered waterfront.

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