

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: March 31, 2021 8:40 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From: Paula Marfleet
Sent: March 30, 2021 3:17 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

Paula Marfleet

Kaleden, B.C. VOH 1KO

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 and it breaks my heart to think we could lose this natural beauty and have to contend with vehicular traffic as well as possible development. PLEASE SAVE SICKLE POINT!

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 31, 2021 8:41 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

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

From: Elsie Sanderud
Sent: March 30, 2021 3:39 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:
Elsie Sanderud

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:

To keep motorized vehicles off the KVR by stopping development of Sickle Point, which will destroy what is a unique and beautiful, historical area.

I find it difficult to understand why the provincial government is not aware enough to do what it can to keep Sickle Point for the public.

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

Regards,

Elsie Sanderud

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: March 31, 2021 8:42 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

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

From: PAT MOSICKI
Sent: March 30, 2021 4:15 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

Patricia and Ken Mosicki

Kaleden, BC V0H 1 K0

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 very sad to think that this precious piece of wetlands may possibly be lost forever to development. Our environment will suffer, as the wetlands are excellent filters of sediment and toxins from our lake. The ecosystem there is an ideal sanctuary for many birds, some of them endangered. So much damage has already been done to this precious piece of land but with proper management in future, this damage could be reversed and we could again have this area to be proud of now, and in generations to come. The very popular KVR trail is a beautiful nature walk that is respected by visitors and locals alike. Biking and walking, all ages are seen on a regular basis and that would change with the addition of a road that would be needed to access the construction on Sickle Point. Cars, motor homes and motorcycles would all make this a dangerous walk and certainly would not be peaceful. This is such a treasure to locals and visitors alike and if we do not stop this development it would be incredibly sad.

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

Sent from my iPad

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: March 31, 2021 8:43 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From: Olive Anthony
Sent: March 30, 2021 7:58 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; Olive Anthony <omanthony7@shaw.ca>
Subject: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From:
Olive and Trev Anthony
Kaleden, BC VoH 1K0

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:

There is a window of opportunity to save a rare wetland area that may never come again. This is only a small area and some may think it doesn't matter but being such a rare gem makes it more important, not less. This rare wetland area could have a profound effect on the quality of Skaha Lake over time if it is preserved for the natural flora and fauna which should live there. It also has the potential to attract many visitors to the valley to walk the KVR trail with such a unique and attractive wetland area able to be observed first hand. When special areas like this one are preserved for posterity no one ever looks back with regret on what was done. Decades from now people will be singing the praises of those who had the foresight to save such an 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,
Olive Anthony

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 31, 2021 8:45 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: Save Sickle Point, Kaleden BC

From: Bob Handfield
Sent: March 30, 2021 10:31 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: John Horgan <premier@gov.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: Save Sickle Point, Kaleden BC

From:
Robert and Margaret Handfield
Kaleden BC V0H1K0

To: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca [need snail mail and email addresses]

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

Dear Minister Conroy:

My wife and I started trying to “save Sickle Point” shortly after we moved to Kaleden in 2003. Our Liberal MLA at the time was not very interested in helping nor were the Liberal Provincial Governments over the next fifteen or so years.

We have written several letters over the past nine months to various Provincial Ministries and to the Premier outlining why it is important to conserve this last remaining undeveloped piece of riparian-wetland habitat on Skaha Lake. The lack of meaningful (in some cases no) responses to our letters is telling.

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 under a court ordered sale. 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.

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.

Having been long-time supporters of the NDP we had great hopes that things might change when Mr. Horgan and his team came to power. Alas, nothing much seems to have changed with respect to environmental issues. We are struggling with how to meaningful differentiate the NDP government from the previous Liberal governments in matters pertaining to ecological issues, BC Parks, forestry and the environment in general.

Are we to tell our grandchildren that we had an opportunity to save a piece of critical habitat but squandered the chance? Then shame on all of us, including your government.

Sincerely,

Robert and Margaret Handfield

Cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier Premier@gov.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 31, 2021 10:01 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

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

From: Sue Hinchliffe
Sent: March 31, 2021 9:35 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:

Growing up in the area since 1955, I have enjoyed Sickle Point all of my life. This piece of property is one of the most beautiful in the valley, hosting thousands of birds and wildlife on its shores. As the KVR trail along the old rail line has been sold off and housing replacing the bike trail, it is incredibly sad to see the development in this quiet beautiful area. I truly believe that Sickle Point should be saved from development so this endangered habitat can welcome the wildlife that has always flocked to it. We are just losing too much land to developers.

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,

Susan Hinchliffe

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



The Trails Society of British Columbia

PO Box 243
Greenwood BC
V0H 1J0

March 30, 2021

RE: Save Sickle Point on Skaha Lake, Syilx Territory

Dear Honorable Katrine Conroy,

This letter is to lend our support in expressing opposition to development at Sickle Point and motorized access along the Kettle Valley Rail Trail Southern Spur.

The Province of British Columbia must commit to the *Move Commute Connect* strategy released by Clean BC in June of 2019. Rail trails throughout the Province are valuable low-gradient trails perfect for active travel and self-propelled mobility. We are opposed to rail trails being used for motorized access. "Trails have the added benefit of often being completely separated from motor vehicles, and in many cases allow people to enjoy British Columbia's natural beauty," it states on page 20 of that report.

It is our understanding the Syilx Nation is opposed to development of this land.

Trails Society of BC is finalizing a soon-to-be published report, "Greenway (Trails) for All: Identifying the Inequities of Active Transportation in Rural BC." that was supported by a grant from the Vancouver Foundation.

Our researchers identified two recommendations to decolonize trails. This can be done by giving support to;

1. Indigenous leadership in the planning and development of trails and active transportation networks.
2. And to the development of new consultation procedures for trails, networks, and recreational facilities with First Nations.

We will be releasing this report very soon and would be pleased to follow up with you at a later time the research findings.

The route through the southern Okanagan on the KVR Southern Spur is an important section of rail trail connecting Penticton and Okanagan Falls and it should not be diminished by allowing motorized vehicles on it.

Trails Society of British Columbia looks forward to collaborating with the Provincial Ministries to develop partnerships for planning active transportation investment opportunities. Saving Sickle Point from development would be an important first step in protecting the Kettle Valley Rail Trail and other rail trails in this Province from development. It is time for the Province to prioritize these rail trails for active travel and transportation instead of allowing them to turn into roadways.

Sincerely,



Ciel Sander

Board President of Trails Society of BC

I live on Autonomous Sinixt traditional territory.

Parts of Sinixt territory are also claimed by the Ktunaxa and Syilx Nations through the colonial land claims process.

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

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

Cc: Okanagan Nation Alliance, communication.admin@syilx.org

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

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

Cc: Roly Russell, MLA for Boundary-Similkameen, Roly.Russell.MLA@leg.bc.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 31, 2021 2:16 PM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From: Leah Schurian
Sent: March 31, 2021 1:01 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:

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?wltln which means a place to land or park a canoe. The people of snpink'tn have always been opposed to development at ncaquq?iwltln.
- 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.

To date, over 300 people, some who do not even live in the immediate area (including myself) 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,

Leah Schurian, BA, JD

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: March 31, 2021 2:45 PM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: URGENT: Purchase and protection of threatened Sickle Point, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Valley, BC

From: jo hinchliffe
Sent: March 31, 2021 2:44 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:

I am writing to you as someone who has a family home in Kaleden, down the road from Sickle Point and throughout my childhood I grew up with the site as an undeveloped, delightful source for exploration and enjoyment. As it should still be even now for me as an elder. Sickle Point is a place of beauty, home to bird life and wildlife that is I believe, our duty to protect.

It is under threat so I am asking for 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.

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

Jo Hinchliffe

It's not that I don't like people. It's just that when I'm in the company of others – even my nearest and dearest – there always comes a moment when I'd rather be reading a book.” – M. Corrigan