

Debbie Schulz

From: Debbie Schulz
Sent: March 9, 2021 12:41 PM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: A Step in the Right Direction

From: Kathryn McCourt
Sent: March 9, 2021 9:22 AM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca; 'Minister, ENV ENV:EX' <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: A Step in the Right Direction

Dear Minister Conroy:

I'm sure you have received other correspondence informing you about the effort to protect a portion of the Skaha Lake shoreline called Sickle Point. This is one of the few areas of foreshore marsh and riparian habitat left in the South Okanagan. The 4.8 acres (1.95 ha) are privately owned and currently in receivership. Private developers are showing interest, wanting to turn this last bit of wetland into yet another subdivision.

Thanks to our housing, agricultural and flood control measures, we have destroyed more than 85% of our wetlands in the South Okanagan, so this is a significant piece of property. There are five red-listed and five blue-listed species that are dependent upon this habitat for their survival.

The Syilx (Okanagan) Nation is also desirous of preserving this culturally important spot; it is one of the few places along a generally rocky shore where a canoe can be landed.

Finally, Sickle Point is a tourist attraction in being a rest point along the much-cycled KVR Trail.

As environmental protection, as a gesture of reconciliation, and in support of the tourist industry, will your ministry and government please contribute financially to the purchase of Sickle Point? British Columbians have to date raised more than a quarter of a million dollars, but we need the support of our government to reach the \$2.5-3 million asking price for the property.

And while you are considering this request, can you please put a stay on any proposed development?

Thank you for your time,

Kathryn McCourt

Cc: 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

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Save Sickle Point Committee