

17 March 2021

Transmitted by Email: ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Province of British Columbia
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Gov
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Heyman

RE: Support for the "Save Sickle Point" Project

Sickle Point is a 4.8 acre parcel located on Skaha Lake in the unincorporated community of Kaleden in the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen. The lot is currently zoned for use as single family residential and it is accessed by a lease approved by the provincial government along the KVR Trail.

A petition to the court was filed by the Mortgagee for default in July 2020 and the court has ordered that the property be marketed for sale.

Throughout the past six months, various community and environmental groups, the Regional District and the Penticton Indian Band have been exploring ways to purchase the property to prevent development and preserve and protect critical habitat for species at risk, as well as rare and endangered riparian and wetland habitat. The protection of this site will allow for continued use of this area for future generations. Sickle Point is also a sensitive and important Indigenous cultural and heritage site.

We understand that you met recently with Chief Gabriel and representatives from the Penticton Indian Band to discuss their concern about the potential development of Sickle Point. This letter is intended to support the Penticton Indian Band as they endeavour to protect this property; and, we might suggest that intervention by the province to purchase the property would be a unique opportunity to advance reconciliation with the Penticton Indian Band.

Sincerely,



Karla Kozakevich
Chair

c. chief.greg.gabriel@pib.ca



Reference: 374448

April 22, 2021

Karla Kozakevich, Chair
and Directors
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
101 Martin Street
Penticton BC V2A 5J9

Sent via email: kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca

Dear Chair Kozakevich and Directors:

Thank you for your letter of March 17, 2021, addressed to the Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, regarding support for the "Save Sickle Point" Project. Minister Heyman has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy regional BC Parks staff have been approached several times over the past decade regarding land securement and protection at Sickle Point. While it is recognized that the site has some unique conservation values and public benefit, due to its size, location, and lack of connectivity with provincial parks in the area, Sickle Point is not suitable as an addition to the provincial parks system. Given these considerations, BC Parks is not considering Sickle Point for acquisition.

On review, BC Parks feels that Sickle Point would be more ideally suited as a community/regional park. BC Parks' mandate for land acquisition is restricted to the management of the provincial parks system and does not provide for contributing to private land acquisition by local government or by others.

Our colleagues at the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) manage certain conservation lands other than the protected areas system in the province and liaise closely with the Conservation Land Partner Program (CLPP). The CLPP leverages the combined expertise, priority setting, and funding of partners to pursue more efficient and effective securement and management of areas for fish, wildlife and habitat conservation. It is my understanding that both FLNRORD and the CLPP have carefully reviewed the Sickle Point proposal but cannot commit to funding at this time.

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**Ministry of Environment and
Climate Change Strategy**

Office of the
Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks and Conservation Officer
Service Division

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9339
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9M1

Telephone: 250 387-1288
Facsimile: 250 387-6003
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/env

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I would encourage you to engage in discussion with groups (such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Nature Trust BC, and the Southern Interior Land Trust) whose mandates are focused on acquiring and holding private lands for conservation.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Standen', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister

BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service

cc: Crystal Ozaraci, Administrative Assistant, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen