

Richard Cannings, MP

South Okanagan—West Kootenay



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To Whom It May Concern

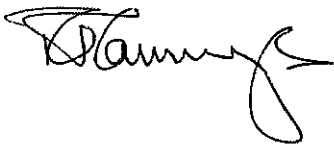
I am writing to provide unqualified support to save Sickle Point as a nature reserve. Sickle Point is a site of rare wetland habitat along the shores of Skaha Lake in Kaleden, BC. It has recently been listed for sale because of foreclosure and it is a fortuitous moment to return it to public ownership.

Sickle Point has unique biodiversity values. It is one of the few remaining significant sites hosting the Red-listed Water Birch/Rose plant community in British Columbia, and it has the potential for hosting federally endangered species such as the Western Screech-Owl and Yellow-breasted Chat. It is also on the migratory path of large waterbirds, such as American White Pelican and Sandhill Crane, and often has wintering Trumpeter Swans and Whistling Swans.

Currently, the only access to Sickle Point is via the Kettle Valley Railway trail, which is used extensively by cyclists and walkers. This non-motorized traffic provides some protection for sensitive species in the area; if Sickle Point is sold to private interests, the trail would need to be opened for motor vehicle traffic. This would impact local wildlife and raise human safety issues.

The community of Kaleden is working hard to save this precious piece of land. To date, \$220,000 has been pledged by members of this small community and concerned people across Canada. The Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen is partnering with Kaleden to provide ongoing support. Funds from conservation foundations and other agencies are urgently needed to save Sickle Point.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Cannings', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Cannings, MP
South Okanagan-West Kootenay