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Hon. Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Hon. Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development  
Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

September 7, 2020

Dear Ministers:

As a follow up to the letter of August 31, 2020, expressing concerns about the possible development of Sickie Point, a wetland area on Skaha Lake adjacent to the Kettle Valley Railway (KVR), I am attaching the petition that was signed by 400 individuals opposing the possible subdivision of Sickie Point. These petition signatures were delivered to Bill Sparkes, Provincial Approving Officer, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Okanagan-Shuswap over a period of three months in the spring of 2019 as a way to express concerns about a recently submitted application for a five-lot subdivision for Sickie Point.

A representative sample of signatures is attached to this letter. It is worth noting that a number of those who signed the petition reside in Penticton, Okanagan Falls and elsewhere highlighting the importance that this area holds in the minds and hearts of the general public outside the Kaleden community. KVR trail users are worried about the potential for conflicts between hikers, bikers, motorized vehicles, and by the precedent set by converting the Trail into a formal roadway.

Another purpose in submitting this petition and example signatures is to indicate that the possible development of Sickie Point is not a new concern. There have been discussions about the possible development of Sickie Point for a number of years. As expressed in the letter of August 31, concerns are urgent now because the property has gone through foreclosure, is up for sale and developers are expressing interest in this last remaining undeveloped riparian property on Skaha Lake.

It is essential that Sickie Point be preserved because it is recognized to have the highest conservation ranking (Class 1) by the Southern Okanagan Similkameen Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (Keeping Nature in Our Future) and it is a provincially red-listed for water birch and wild rose community, which supports endangered wildlife and aquatic species such as the Yellow Breasted Chat, Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Rattlesnake and Pallid Bat. It is also part of the migratory path for both resident and migrant wildlife including American White Pelican and Sandhill Crane.

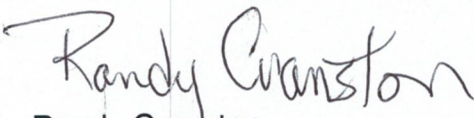
The Save Sickle Point Committee's renewed vision for Sickle Point is summarized in the following statement:

The community of Kaleden envisions Sickle Point as a nature park maintaining public access from the non-motorized KVR trail to the northern half of the upland area and the beach area for day use only. Access to the riparian and wetland areas would be restricted to appropriate trails and boardwalks as they become developed. Interpretative signage would document the habitat, wildlife, First Nations culture and heritage and fish resources of the Skaha Lake area and would be available as an educational resource for local schools.

As stated in the August 31, 2020 letter, we are **requesting a review of access issues and habitat/conservation values that any development of Sickle Point would have on the KVR Trail and the environmental integrity of the land and waters. We respectfully ask that development of this valuable and treasured property be denied and efforts be made to protect it before any consideration be given to a the public real-estate listing.**

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

On behalf of the Save Sickle Point Committee

  
Randy Cranston

cc:

Premier John Horgan, [Premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Premier@gov.bc.ca)

Hon. Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, [TAC.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:TAC.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Hon. Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, [HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

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