



February 26, 2021

Mary Ellen Heidt
Save Sickle Point Committee
Kaleden, BC V0H 1K0

Re: Support for the Save Sickle Point Committee's efforts to secure funding for Sickle Point

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is pleased to support the efforts of the Save Sickle Point Committee to secure funding for their Sickle Point acquisition project in the South Okanagan. No single conservation organization can do this work alone, and so it is crucial to support community-led conservation initiatives such as this.

The BC Interior supports over 1.5 million breeding waterfowl from 24 different species, and the Okanagan serves as an important migration pathway for many of these birds. However, it is also the most densely populated part of the region, and human activities have caused the loss of up to 85 percent of low elevation wetlands. Save Sickle Point's efforts to purchase this property for conservation will help protect an important wetland on the shores of Skaha Lake. The opportunity for conserving and restoring red-listed ecological systems on this property is considerable. When measured against the major loss of these ecosystems in the Okanagan Valley, acquiring Sickle Point will make a significant contribution towards providing habitat for species and enhancing resilience to climate change.

The acquisition of Sickle Point provides an invaluable opportunity for community-led conservation, protection of Species At Risk and ecosystem resilience. NCC fully supports the Save Sickle Point Committee's efforts to acquire one of the last remaining wetland areas on Skaha Lake for the benefit of all living things.

Sincerely
Nature Conservancy of Canada

Barb Pryce
Southern Interior Program Director

