

Media Release February 9, 2021

RE: Save Sickle Point Committee Focuses on Fundraising and Grants

The Save Sickle Point Committee had been hopeful that the Alternative Approval Process would be successful to bridge the fundraising for the purchase of Sickle Point. It has always been the intent of the Committee to fundraise the total amount of the purchase price of \$2.5 million and have a year to do so before the taxpayer might be affected in the 2022 tax year.

The committee would like to thank everyone who has had the foresight to make pledges. We applaud those who have pledged their future ICBC rebate or the British Columbia Recovery Benefit to help purchase Sickle Point. We continue to receive daily pledges from the broader community and thank those citizens who see the value of saving endangered wetlands for future generations.

"We continue to be optimistic that Sickle Point can be protected, "says Evelyn Kansy, Save Sickle Point committee member. The committee remains enthusiastic about saving Sickle Point through a variety of fundraising initiatives including a WayBlaze crowdfunding initiative, grant applications, requests to all levels of government and various conservation groups and other creative events.

Committee member Doreen Olson said, "We will continue to work collaboratively with the Penticton Indian Band and the Regional District of the Okanagan-Similkameen to ensure the land is conserved and protected in perpetuity."

Pledges towards the purchase of Sickle Point can be made through the Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen at <u>www.cfso.net/sickle-point/</u>

As Randy Cranston, another committee member noted, "In these difficult and trying times, Saving Sickle Point gives hope for the future."

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