



Reference: 258308

January 13, 2021

**VIA EMAIL: [chair@kaledencommunity.com](mailto:chair@kaledencommunity.com)**

Randy Cranston, Chair  
Kaleden Community Association  
Box 136  
Kaleden, British Columbia  
VOH 1K0

Dear Randy Cranston:

Thank you for your letters of August 31, 2020 and September 7, 2020, to the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, sent on behalf of the Save Sickle Point Committee. I have been asked to respond and am following up on the interim reply sent to you October 16, 2020, when the provincial election period precluded a more detailed response.

Sickle Point is a privately owned parcel recognized for its high environmental values for many years. This parcel contains federally identified critical habitat for yellow-breasted chat, Lewis's woodpecker, pallid bat, and several snake species at risk. This parcel also represents one of the few remaining naturally vegetated foreshore areas on Skaha Lake. Based on these and other factors, the parcel has been ranked at a very high conservation value as part of the South Okanagan Similkameen Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.

The ministry manages numerous conservation lands within the province. The primary purpose of the BC Conservation Lands Program is to conserve and manage important habitat for the benefit of regionally or internationally significant fish and wildlife species. There are several tools through which the ministry can acquire legal administration and management authority over conservation lands.

The ministry also works with non-governmental conservation land organizations through long-standing partnerships to acquire and manage conservation lands. The Conservation Land Partner Program (CLPP) is a key element of the BC Conservation Lands Program that leverages the combined expertise, priority setting, and funding of partners to pursue more efficient and effective securement and management of Crown areas for fish, wildlife and habitat conservation.

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Randy Cranston, Chair

The ministry receives a number of proposals every year regarding potential additions to the BC Conservation Lands Program. This information will be passed on by my team to the CLPP for review. We encourage you to contact the regional district, as well as conservation partners with interest in land securement (for conservation purposes), while we continue to evaluate this parcel.

I understand that efforts are underway in the community to garner support for purchasing this property and that Penticton Indian Band has indicated their support to protect this piece of land. At this time, the province is unable to contribute financially to this endeavour.

In the meantime, please contact Josie Symonds, Senior Ecosystems Biologist at (778) 622-6837 or [josie.symonds@gov.bc.ca](mailto:josie.symonds@gov.bc.ca) for updates.

Thank you for your continued interest in Sickle Point.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Rasmussen', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul Rasmussen  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
South Area

pc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural Development  
Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Honourable Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport  
Josie Symonds, Senior Ecosystems Biologist