

Honourable Scott Moe

Minister of the Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water Corporation

Room 345, Legislative Building,
2405 Legislative Drive,
Regina, SK, Canada, S4S 0B3

Dear Honourable Scott Moe

Re: QUILL LAKES WATERSHED DIVERSION PLAN TO MOVE WATER THROUGH KUTAWAGAN INTO LAST MOUNTAIN LAKE.

We are writing to share our concern over the confusion and mis-information that has caused our communities within the Quill Lakes and Qu'Appelle Watersheds to be divided in opinion and in facts. This circumstance has eroded relations among farmers in the impacted regions and those farming, of course, in the downstream riparian communities. As a result, we believe **leadership** at this time is most important. To ensure economic, social, and environmental sustainability; and as foundational, to build community trust within Saskatchewan, it is imperative that we work together.

On Feb 14, 2017 we learned from Kerry Holderness that a meeting between the delegations of Wascana Upper Qu'Appelle Watersheds Association Taking Responsibility (WUQWATR) and the Quill Lakes WaterShed Association (QLWA) #14 took place on January 13, 2017. From these deliberations WUQWATR agreed that fresh water could be diverted while all possible higher TDS water must be retained in the Quill lakes system.

On April 27, 2017, we learned at the meeting, held in Raymore, that the diversion of three creeks would be moved in to Kutawagan with a controlled structure in place to move water into Last Mountain Lake.

As you may recall, on September 18, 2015 Environmental Minister at the time, the Honourable Herb Cox **reversed** the proposed plan to divert water into Last Mountain Lake through Kutawagan. He stated in his media release "the reaction wasn't positive, with 74 per cent of those consulted not approving the proposal."

Unfortunately, we are again facing the same question, but expecting a different outcome. We know that the Quill Lakes flooding is manmade and considered a disaster by many. Since 2006 the lakes have risen from an elevation of approximately 515 metres to 520.9 metres, a height differential of 4.9 metres. The KGS report indicates that 38% of the inflows are from drainage so that would mean that 1.9 metres of this increase is due to drainage. This flooding and the need to spend tax payers' dollars to

raise the highways would not be happening if the lakes were almost 2 metres lower than they are to date.

Our communities are looking for trust, leadership and a collective solution. We have learned from the past that community engagement with, in this case, the Quill Lakes Water Shed Authority will generate solutions. Solving problems that involve the best and the brightest from our: First Nation Communities; research communities; industries; such as potash, oil and gas; water champion communities; and, policy makers will built trust and result in workable solutions.

Our question to you Mr. Minister – Our communities are being divided and this is leading to protests and unrest. ***Will you begin an equitable problem-solving process, which reinforces open collaboration, engagement of all concerned, and which guarantees positive solutions and trust amongst our communities?***

We want to share that we are very much opposed to water being moved through Kutawagan and will do what we need to do to ensure the wellbeing of the Qu'Appelle watershed river, and lake systems.

We look forward to your response and the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Cc: