Dear Friends of the Calling Lakes Ecomuseum

Today, the Saskatchewan Alliance for Water Sustainability (SAWS), announced a petition to bring focus on the increasing public concern regarding a proposed Quill Lakes diversion project. The project would divert water from the Quill Lakes Watershed, a closed watershed basin, into the Qu'Appelle Lakes/River system.

SAWS is an alliance of concerned citizens including Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, non-profit organizations, and people from our Universities and Polytechs concerned with the continued deterioration of water quality in the Qu'Appelle Watershed. The waters between Last Mountain Lake and Round Lake have shaped and influenced our history, economy, natural environment and surrounding communities. Yet these magnificent bodies of water are far from thriving but instead suffering from years of neglect, abuse and degradation.   The Calling Lakes Ecomuseum is part of this working body.

The project called, Common Ground Drainage Diversion Project, has been determined by Environment Minister Scott Moe, not to be "development" under the Environmental Assessment Act, and therefore not requiring a detailed environmental assessment including a public comment period.

Qu'Appelle River Watershed residents and First Nations have expressed concerns in the potential addition of poor quality water with higher salt content being introduced into the system and potentially effecting many aspects of the environment including fish, wildlife, plants, and the use of water by agricultural producers, communities and First Nations people.

A detailed proposed project has not been released to the public. The next step is now licencing of the project by the Water Security Agency, with construction expected once WSA gives the project the green light.

This petition is to give the community an opportunity to voice their concerns as our voice was taken away with the removal of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

Sincerely

Aura Lee MacPherson

Chair of the Calling Lakes Ecomuseum