

PETITION CALLING FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO SAVE OUR SWALES

We, the undersigned residents of the Province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following:

- The Ministry of Highways is planning a 4-lane, high speed highway around part of Saskatoon and through the Swales;
- The Northeast and Small Swales of Saskatoon provide food and habitat to a number of endangered and declining species, and many others not listed as endangered; are part of our shared natural heritage; and include rare fescue grassland and high quality functional wetlands;
- The Provincial government is neglecting its environmental protection duties to adequately protect wild species, habitats, and ecosystems of local, regional, national, and global significance. This includes failing to develop legislation according to the principles agreed to in the National Accord for Protection of Endangered Species; failing to uphold and honour the intent of the Wildlife Act, Wildlife Habitat Protection Act, and the Wild Species at Risk Regulations by not protecting endangered species and their habitats through appropriate designation and listing;
- Lack of adequate protection is leading to a decrease in many types of wildlife habitat—particularly grassland habitat—declines in species populations and health, and a loss of local, regional, and national biodiversity. Highways impact ecosystems through fragmentation, but assessments of their environmental impacts are only done for site-specific boundaries, ignoring their regional and cumulative impacts;

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan:

Call on the Provincial government to: (1) suspend planning for the Saskatoon Freeway and development around the Swales until a regional cumulative effects assessment has been completed, (2) update the Wildlife Act and expand the list of wild species protected by Provincial regulation, (3) recognize the Swales as important ecological habitat and designate them as protected areas, and (4) ensure adequate long-term funding for research, management, and enforcement to protect the Swales for generations to come.

Name (print)

Address (print)

Signature

Email

Please note: The name and address of the persons who sign this petition may be made available to the public if the petition is in proper form to be presented in the Legislative Assembly.

TO ENSURE THIS PETITION IS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATURE, please:

MAIL TO NDP CAUCUS OFFICE: 2405 Legislative Drive, Room 265, Regina, SK S4S 0B3 (Phone: 306-787-7388)

OR

MAIL TO/DROP OFF: 621 Main St, Saskatoon, SK S7H 0J8 (Phone: 306-664-6101)