

Hello everyone. An online petition to the Federal Government has been made available to the public regarding the Quill Lakes drainage diversion project which involves Last Mountain Lake. The link is provided in the Saskatchewan Alliance for Water Sustainability news release below. Some of you may have already signed the federal petition, however this is a reminder for those who have not. **Many more signatures are required.** Thank you

Jackie Wigg Administrative Assistant Resort Village of Saskatchewan Beach Phone: 306-729-4410  
Fax: 306-729-2217 Email: [saskbeach@sasktel.net](mailto:saskbeach@sasktel.net)

We have prepared an on-line petition to the Federal Government. The petition we signed before Christmas was presented to the provincial legislature.

The federal petition will be presented to Parliament by Erin Weir, MLA. Some of you may have already signed the federal petition, however this is a reminder for those who have not. We need many more signatures. As I mentioned in my earlier Update, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency is currently reviewing our request, and many others, asking for an Environmental Impact Study before the diversion project can begin. A petition with thousands of signatures will send a strong message to the CEAA. Public concern is one of the factors taken into consideration when determining whether or not an Environmental Assessment is required.

Below is a media release that has been circulated to the media. The release also contains the link to access the petition. Please do not hesitate to submit your signature as we hope to forward it on to Erin Weir, prior to CEAA decision making scheduled for early 2018.

As always, thanks for your support.  
Sherry Forsyth  
Saskatchewan Alliance for Water Sustainability

## Saskatchewan Alliance for Water Sustainability

### ***Federal E-Petition Initiated for an Environmental Assessment of the Quill Lakes Diversion Project***

The Saskatchewan Alliance for Water Sustainability (SAWS) has initiated a federal E-petition in an attempt to have the, Quill Lakes Watershed Association *Common Ground Drainage Diversion Project* undergo a federal environmental assessment. The proposed project would divert saline water from the Quill Lakes Watershed, a closed watershed basin, into the Qu'Appelle Lakes/River system. The project was determined in September of 2017 by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment not to be "development" under the Saskatchewan *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Spokesperson for SAWS, Aura-Lee MacPherson, said "the Ministry of Environment has failed the people of the Qu'Appelle River Watershed and Saskatchewan by not conducting an impartial scientific review of the proposed project and then concluding that the impacts and public concerns regarding the project

was not sufficient to trigger an environmental assessment. We have requested the Ministry reconsider their decision and they said they would not.”

“Based on the province’s responses so far we have no choice but to appeal to the Canadian Minister of Environment to declare that the proposed project requires an Environmental Assessment under the federal *Environmental Assessment Act*. The specific project has lacked transparency and both public and aboriginal consultation from the beginning. Documents obtained after the Ministry’s September decision has resulted in there being many questions without adequate answers regarding impacts to many aspects of the environment including fish, wildlife, plants, and the use of water by agricultural producers, communities and First Nations people.”

“The Quill Lakes basin has a problem but the answer is not to move that problem downstream with unknown costs to people and the environment. There are other proposed solutions that are less environmentally impacting and lower in costs”, Ms. MacPherson said.

The petition is now open for signatures on the Parliament of Canada website at <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca> .

SAWS is an alliance of concerned citizens including Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, non-profit organizations, and people from Saskatchewan Universities and Polytechs concerned with the continued deterioration of water quality in the Qu’Appelle River Watershed.

-For more information, contact:

Aura Lee MacPherson at 306-539-6903 or email [saskaws@gmail.com](mailto:saskaws@gmail.com)