



WETLANDS STRENGTHEN SASKATCHEWAN'S SUSTAINABILITY

We now have an opportunity to work together before the 2016 provincial election, and make a difference in Saskatchewan's future.

The annual loss of over 10,000 acres of wetlands (an average of 14 CFL football fields each day) is primarily due to agricultural drainage. As of September 1, 2015 we have new drainage regulations in Saskatchewan. The wetland conservation and wetland loss mitigation components of the regulations are still being developed and the Water Security Agency's timeframe for completion is unknown. **This is not acceptable**, and will not change without pressure from people who value Saskatchewan's wetlands.

We must ensure that we have strong provincial legislation preventing the loss of wetlands and for any negative impacts to wetlands. We need this now!

Wetland Drainage:

- 1 contributes to downstream flooding which damages buildings and infrastructure
- 2 can result in flooded agricultural lands
- 3 contributes to degradation of downstream water quality
- 4 removes essential habitat for many species of wildlife in Saskatchewan, including endangered species
- 5 releases greenhouse gases like CO₂ into the atmosphere resulting in the loss of thousands of years worth of carbon storage

Concerns

The Saskatchewan government is not moving fast enough to address these important issues. Our roads, culverts, bridges, rail lines and farm and pasture lands are at increased risk. Loss, or damage of infrastructure, will result in a significant burden for the Saskatchewan taxpayer. Water quantity and quality issues are affecting recreational opportunities in our provincial parks. Hunting and fishing are being put at risk. Carbon is lost to the atmosphere every time a wetland is drained, contributing to global climate change.

Action Needed Now

We are asking the government of Saskatchewan to immediately start protecting our remaining wetlands on the landscape.

An open and transparent process to inventory and evaluate drainage works needs to start immediately. Projects contributing to downstream flooding and degradation of water quality should be closed. This needs to happen concurrently with a well-defined mitigation process which will enable producers, municipalities and industry to keep pace with growth, while ensuring Saskatchewan's environment remains healthy.

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Ducks Unlimited Canada
Conserving Canada's Wetlands

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