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## **A New Policy is Coming Soon – Are you Ready for It?**

**February 2 is World Wetlands Day - A day to celebrate all the many things that wetlands do and provide for us.**

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Wetlands are found all over the world and are one of our most natural productive ecosystems. They are also one of our most threatened ecosystems. In Saskatchewan wetlands come in all shapes and sizes, and include marshes, lakes and rivers, floodplains, swamps, sloughs, potholes, and peat lands.

Wetlands do a lot of amazing things for us such as:

Remove contaminants from our water

Fight climate change by storing carbon

Provide habitat for wildlife

Lessen the effects of floods and drought

Recharge groundwater sources

Wetlands are critical to our way of life, yet they continue to be converted at a rapid pace in this province to other uses, like agricultural drainage and urban development. When this happens we lose all the benefits they provide, and it takes hundreds of years to bring them back.

The loss of wetlands negatively impact biodiversity by destroying critical habitat; increasing the amount of nutrients going into our lakes and rivers causing toxic algae blooms; releasing more carbon into the atmosphere thereby accelerating climate change; and increasing drought and floods, often destroying critical infrastructure like highways and properties.

Now more than ever wetlands need your help. The Saskatchewan Water Security Agency (WSA) is currently developing new wetland drainage regulations that will be announced in the fall of 2023. Over the coming months as we learn more about what WSA is proposing, we will be sharing that information with you.

Our goal is to be transparent, work from science and set our communities up for success by creating a conversation about the importance of wetlands before this becomes policy in the Fall of 2023. Stay tuned!

In the meantime you can learn about what we've learned so far by clicking this link or following us on Facebook.

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<https://www.facebook.com/QuappelleValleySK>

<https://files.constantcontact.com/9668bc5f701/e6023782-4b53-4723-bb1c-a83fd0964b87.pdf>

If you would like to join CLEM or LMLSG please call 306 539 6903



**CLEM is working with the Last Mountain Lake Stewardship Group to ensure the health of our lakes in southern Saskatchewan.**

**For more information, visit [www.lmlsg.ca/SAWS](http://www.lmlsg.ca/SAWS) or our Facebook page **Calling for a Sustainable Quill Lake Solution or Calling Lakes Ecomuseum****



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