

## WE LOVE OUR LAKES.

The Quill Lakes crisis from a fisherman's perspective.



When asked why the future of Saskatchewan's lakes matter to him, Layne Maier replied, "Fisherman are definitely true conservationists. Some of the people really pushing for this environment assessment are the Anglers. Last Mountain Lake is a trophy fishing lake, it's one of the best. It's definitely in our best interest to keep the lake in good shape. I think one of the toughest lessons you learn in fishing is how to put fish back and how to look after the lake that looks after you."

Of the Saskatchewan government's previous proposals for solving the Quill Lakes issue — particularly the Last Mountain Lake diversion — Maier said, "I'm not a fan. Last Mountain Lake is extremely salient as it is, I'd imagine we're already pushing the limits. The problem with [the government's] idea is that I know they want to dump into the North side of the lake and obviously the lake flows from the North to the South and then downstream to Fort Qu'Appelle. I think the major problem I have with this is that the North side of the lake is very shallow and it is definitely a major spawning area for all species — especially the Walleye. Obviously, spawning is a very sensitive time for them. I'm not a biologist, but in my opinion, I don't see anything

good coming from it. I have absolutely no problem with the diversion itself, pending they can prove it's not going to have an ecological impact on the waters...It's just that everything seems very shady in all this — lack of communication, lack of information. There's absolutely no reason why they can't take the proper steps to have the assessments done.”

Finally, we (the Saskatchewan Alliance for Water Sustainability) talked to Maier whether he supports our proposal to have the government host a round table discussion on solutions for the Quill Lakes issue. Maier said, “Well, I feel like that's almost necessary at this point...Many of my friends are big farmers and own lots of waterfront land out there, their cattle actually drink from the lake and graze along the lake, they have major concerns as well. I know they would love to be brought to the table. For Anglers - the lake is like our baby, there's nothing like it in Saskatchewan, people come from all over Canada and the US to fish here, people spend a huge amount of money — I'm a tournament fisher, I don't even want to tell you what I have invested in my boat. This is my passion, and there's a lot of guys out here like me.”

We at SAWS strongly believe that our government must hold such a round table to ensure that the voice of every lover of our lakes is heard.

Here is a suggested email format to send a strong message to the right people and help Saskatchewan flourish:

Dear Honorable Dustin Duncan Minister of Environment and Sam Ferris Acting Vice President of WSA, what date in September have you selected to host the Roundtable Discussion to collaboratively solve the Quill Lakes Flooding issue. I would like to see the Department of Environment organize a Round Table discussion that brings together all aspects of the Saskatchewan community. Sincerely \_\_\_\_\_.

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Please “help us help you” by donating to “Save Last Mountain/Qu'Appelle Lakes” directly or by going to our GoFundMe page at: <https://www.gofundme.com/savelastmtn-qu-appelle>

Our website is: <http://www.lmlsg.ca/>