

For Immediate Release (October 2, 2018)

Citizens Group Raises Concerns Over Farmland Drainage

A group of concerned citizens from across Saskatchewan and Manitoba are raising concerns about Saskatchewan's new Agricultural Drainage Policies. Farmers, ranchers, urban, rural, downstream landowners, and recreational users came together to deliberate and propose solutions to the ongoing negative effects of farmland drainage. Their concerns have been captured in an Inshtrix Report "**CALL TO ACTION**" *Findings from Farmland Drainage Roundtable Initiative*.

Like the Provincial Auditor who recently raised concerns over the Water Security Agencies (WSA) lack of effective enforcement of the drainage regulations, this citizens group is raising concerns that, despite new legislation, drainage remains a big problem. Besides a lack of enforcement, participants also expressed concern that WSA is not considering loss of wetland functions such as the loss of groundwater recharge areas, downstream hydrological flooding mitigation, water quality impacts including nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) and pesticides, fish and wildlife habitat loss and degradation, carbon release and subsequent contribution to climate change and the overall accumulative effects on our environment from these farmland drainage projects. The the majority of society is not aware that water in Saskatchewan is owned by the public and that drainage is a privilege not a right. WSA is responsible for licensing drainage while at the same time protecting water quality, reducing flood and drought damage, and protecting aquatic habitat.

The full **Inshtrix** report can be downloaded at the Citizens Environmental Alliance Facebook page.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/481846762318259/?ref=group_header

For more information, contact:

Jeff Olson - Citizens Environmental Alliance at 306-647-2624 or email mindseyeconsultingsask@gmail.com