



Help us protect SASKATCHEWAN'S GRASSLANDS

March 20, 2021

Dear Public Pastures – Public Interest supporter:

Grassland conservation, like most environmental causes, has been temporarily sidelined as our governments and communities deal with life under Covid-19. Even so, private donations small and large are making a difference. The Weston Foundation (think Superstore and Loblaws) has just made a generous \$25 M donation to grassland conservation. At the other end of the scale, smaller environmental groups like ours put donations to work to support local communities in their defence of native grassland and to raise the public profile of issues such as the de-listing and sale of Crown lands formerly protected under the Wildlife Habitat Protection Act.

With your help PPPI has, in the last decade, managed to bring national attention to the number one conservation issue in Saskatchewan—the protection of our remaining native prairie. By contributing your time and money to this cause, and helping us raise awareness via traditional media, e-mail, and social media, your support has made a difference.

Although our grasslands are still very much at risk, governments at the federal and provincial level are beginning to recognize the public interest in healthy grassland habitat for cultural and ecological wellbeing. We know that PPPI has helped move the needle in the right direction.

PPPI is known nationally as a grassland advocacy group that “punches above its weight” and has the independence and freedom to speak plainly when it sees government or industry acting in ways that threaten the public interest in healthy grassland ecosystems. Larger conservation organizations do vital work in protecting grassland and at-risk species by accessing funds from government, but since the advocacy chill that came over civil society groups during the Harper era, many NGOs have become reluctant to lobby and speak publicly when they disagree with legislation and policy. Because PPPI does not have to worry about protecting charitable status and win government grants, we play an important advocacy role within the overall effort to protect Canada’s remaining native grasslands.

All of our work is done by volunteers, mostly our hard-working board members, and that means our budget is not large. But we do have operating expenses and we incur costs when we hold public gatherings, attend conferences and national meetings, or travel to Ottawa to meet with MPs. We hope to be able to be doing these activities again in the near future, as well as other kinds of projects. We would also like to improve our online presence and overall communication with you, our supporters, and the wider public. All of these good things cost money.

And so, we invite you to continue supporting our grassland advocacy work with **a donation, either by using the attached donation form or by e-mailing us an e-transfer at public4pastures@gmail.com**. Large or small, any amount is welcome. If you feel generous and donate \$100 or more you will receive a free copy of the award-winning book ***Islands of Grass***, featuring photography by Branimir Gjetvaj and essays by Trevor Herriot.

You will not receive a charitable-donation receipt but we hope you take comfort and pride in knowing you support a non-profit that is not afraid to speak out in defense of our precious native prairie.

Awakening hearts and minds to the beauty and value of our remaining native prairie is an intergenerational process but PPPI is in this for the long haul. Like you, we draw energy and inspiration from the land itself. When the winter snows melt, make sure you get out to your local patch to look and listen. With any luck there will be meadowlarks singing songs as ancient as the prairie itself. They are faithful to these places. The least we can do is return the favour.

Thank you for your continued support.

With appreciation,

Lorne Scott and Trevor Herriot, PPPI Co-chairs

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