

**PRESIDENT**

M. Asmuss, MCEd., B.A. Hons

VICE PRESIDENT

R.A. Halliday, P.Eng.

TREASURER

B. Weichel, M.Sc.

DIRECTORS

J. Hanson

L. Luciuk, B.A. & Sc.

C. McCoshen, B.A., B.Ed.

P. Prebble, M. SEM, M.Ed., BBA

B. Salm, B.A., Tech.Ag.

D. Stockdale, B.F.A.

U. Teucher, Ph.D, B.A. Dbl Hons,
GKKP

S. Valentine, M.D., B.Sc. Hons

G. Wright, J.D., M.Sc., B.Sc., P.Eng.

TELEPHONE

1.306.665.1915

EMAIL

info@environmentalsociety.ca

WEBSITE

www.environmentalsociety.ca

MAIL

PO Box 1372 Saskatoon SK S7K 3N9

OFFICE

220 20th Street West Saskatoon

PRESS RELEASE

Saskatchewan Environmental Society

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

For immediate release

The Saskatchewan Environmental Society seeks intervenor status in local climate change litigation

The Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES) is seeking intervenor status in a climate action lawsuit that could set important precedents in Canada. The case, launched by seven citizens and Climate Justice Saskatoon against the Government of Saskatchewan and SaskPower, asserts that in the face of a growing climate change emergency, citizens' charter rights are being violated by the ongoing expansion of conventional natural gas-fired generating stations that release millions of tonnes of greenhouse gas pollution into the atmosphere. Through its intervention, SES intends to offer perspectives on energy alternatives that are reliable, cost effective, and would significantly reduce Saskatchewan's greenhouse gas emissions.

SES plans to bring forward two outstanding witnesses in its intervention. Dr. Mark Jacobson has advised governments around the world on energy policy and demonstrated how every U.S. state could move to 100% renewable energy to meet their electricity needs. Dr. Brett Dolter, a local economist, has written several papers on modelling pathways to decarbonizing Canada, including Saskatchewan specifically, as well as the economic and financial implications.

SES is deeply concerned about greenhouse gas pollution in our province. The evidence that climate change has become an environmental and public health emergency is now overwhelming. If left unchecked, climate change endangers the future of human civilization and a great many other species. SaskPower's failure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a timely way is troubling, and its target to delay achieving net-zero emissions until 2050 does not in any way align with the recommendations of the International Energy Agency and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Every level of government in the world has a responsibility to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions rapidly.

For many years, SES has urged SaskPower to invest much more heavily in wind power, solar power, co-generation of electricity, small scale hydro, electricity efficiency and conservation, expanded interprovincial interconnections, and electricity storage technologies. SaskPower has an enviable record on many other fronts. It is a community minded corporation, a good employer, a company with a good safety record, and a company that has reliably met Saskatchewan's electricity needs for a long time. However, its environmental record leaves much to be desired.



For more information, please contact:

Megan Van Buskirk, Director of Policy & Communication
Saskatchewan Environmental Society
p. 306.665.1915 e. meganvb@environmentalsociety.ca

Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES) is a non-profit, registered charity that is committed to supporting sustainable living and sustainable resource use in Saskatchewan. We work with, and on behalf of, communities, organizations, businesses, and policy makers to encourage informed decision-making that moves us towards sustainability. SES's current action areas include sustainable energy and climate solutions, water protection, resource conservation, biodiversity preservation, and reduction of toxic substances. Our work in Saskatchewan is carried out in Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, and our office is in Saskatoon on Treaty 6, the traditional territory of Cree Peoples and the homeland of the Métis Nation.