



For immediate release: Statement clarifying Government of Alberta's announcement of proposed Springbank Dam.

March 23, 2016

Springbank, Alberta – Following today's statement by officials of the Government of Alberta on the status of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for the proposed Springbank dam (SR1), landowners feel they must respond in order to set the record straight on the reason for these assessments, and to renew their opposition to the Springbank dam project.

To be clear, there have been no negotiations on land transfer between Springbank residents and the Government of Alberta. None. What has occurred is a negotiation to allow access to properties for the purpose of environmental assessment. Notwithstanding the firm opposition of Springbank residents to the proposed Springbank dam (SR1), landowners negotiated access because of their firm belief that environmental assessments will demonstrate that SR1 is bad public policy. "We are confident that the assessments will prove that the land in question is a hotspot for wildlife, and has most of the same environmental and social issues that were deemed to make McLean Creek unfavorable. Not to mention that the vast and ever-expanding footprint of the project (6800 acres) will make land acquisition so expensive that no cost/benefit analysis would withstand public scrutiny", said Lee Drewry, one of the affected owners, today.

Additionally, the Government of Alberta statement reads, "Government has conducted extensive stakeholder consultation for this project and will continue to engage with stakeholders." To date, elected officials from this government have not consulted with Springbank landowners and have, in fact, refused several meeting requests.

Landowners want to ensure that Albertans understand that they have no intention of giving up the fight to stop SR1. "SR1 is bad public policy. The cost of SR1 has been vastly understated, it won't be faster than McLean Creek, and it does not provide protection for upstream communities. And, at its heart, it is fundamentally unjust. What SR1 does is to call for the destruction of one community, to save another. Transferring risk from one community to another is not flood mitigation. We are confident that with enough time, and scrutiny, Albertans, especially rural Albertans, will back our fight to stop this white elephant in its tracks," concluded Drewry today.

For more information please contact: Media@DontDamnSpringbank.org