

COURT FILE NUMBER KBG - RG - 848 of 2023

COURT OF KING'S BENCH FOR SASKATCHEWAN

JUDICIAL CENTRE REGINA

APPLICANTS SABRINA DYKSTRA, JILL FORRESTER, RYAN HEISE,
KAYLA HOPKINS, LYNN OLIPHANT, HAROLD PEXA, AMY
SNIDER, and CLIMATE JUSTICE SASKATOON
ORGANIZATION INC.

RESPONDENTS SASKATCHEWAN POWER CORPORATION, CROWN
INVESTMENTS CORPORATION OF SASKATCHEWAN,
and THE GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

AFFIDAVIT

AFFIDAVIT OF APPLICANT AMY SNIDER

I, AMY SNIDER, of the City of REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN, MAKE OATH AND SAY (or AFFIRM):

1. I have personal knowledge of the statements and facts deposed to in this Affidavit, except where stated to be on information learned from someone else, and where so stated, I verily believe the information to be true.
2. My full name is Amy Ruth Snider. I am 45 years old, and I currently reside in the City of Regina, SK.
3. I have worked as a University Instructor (tenured) at the University of Regina for the past 18 years.
4. I live with my husband and my son who is currently 13 years old.
5. Saskatchewan has been my home for approximately half of my life. I grew up in British Columbia, and our family has a history of making (nearly) annual summer vacations to British Columbia to enjoy hiking in the mountains or along the coast. I have always appreciated alpine hiking where one can enjoy the cold meltwater of the glacial lakes and rivers and approach the

toe of melting glaciers. Being in that environment has always been therapeutic for me and I find it quite something to acknowledge the beauty of the various flora and fauna on those hikes. There is an astonishing beauty of these glacial ecosystems that has long had a healing effect upon me. My family and I also enjoy hiking in Saskatchewan forests and will often travel to various campsites within Saskatchewan seeking the healing aspects of being in nature. Whether in Saskatchewan or British Columbia, my time spent in nature has normally had a healing effect upon me and I think of those times as recharging me so that I can carry on with my life in urban Regina.

6. I became aware of the concept of anthropogenic climate change approximately 15 years ago, but I have become acutely aware of the climate crisis in the last decade. I understand that dangerous climate change is an existential threat to humans and other species too. I know that dangerous climate change is principally caused by humans burning large quantities of fossil fuels.
7. As I learned more about dangerous climate change and became aware of the human causes, I began to feel a growing sense of despair and sadness because we humans are acting in a manner that is destroying nature. In the past 10 years those feelings of ecoanxiety intensified to the point where I was constantly reminded through every observation of trees, birds, or other nature, that we humans are causing their destruction. Before my awareness of dangerous climate change, when I observed birds and trees I felt a sense of wonder, gratitude, and healing. Now when I observe nature, what used to be beautiful and healing now fills me with sadness and despair knowing that humans, and my own activities, are exposing them to dangerous climate change and causing loss of their habitat. I feel hopeless knowing that dangerous climate change threatens the existence of so many species of plants and animals.
8. My growing awareness of dangerous climate change and its impacts led to mental and emotional distress as I thought (and continue to think) about species extinction, sea level rise, extreme weather events, loss of food security, loss of water security, and the many other impacts that climate change causes.
9. The summer of 2021 was particularly difficult because of the heat domes, the punishing dry hot weather and relentless winds, and the significant amount of lingering forest fire smoke that seemed prevalent from late July 2021 to early September 2021. When I was surrounded by the constant reminders of dangerous climate change during the summer of 2021, my ecoanxiety became inescapable and particularly debilitating.
10. My ecoanxiety became so severe and so debilitating that I took a leave of absence from my employment starting in January of 2022. During that time, I was experiencing nausea,

headaches, back aches, chest pains, loss of appetite, panic attacks, difficulty breathing, difficulty functioning, insomnia, anxiety, and depression. I was unable to sleep without medication. I lost 10 lbs of body mass in 10 weeks when I was struggling with nausea while trying to eat. My condition impinged on my ability to make even simple decisions and carry out routine tasks. In my most severe states of depression and anxiety, I considered suicide because of the overwhelming feelings of dread and hopelessness.

11. I treated my severe ecoanxiety with visits to a psychologist and psychiatrist, medication, community support groups, other alternative therapy including meditation, and a leave of absence from work. Despite my treatment, I don't feel that I have much resilience. I attempted to return to work in November 2022, but relapsed and needed to go back on medical leave in January 2023. I feel weakened by ecoanxiety, and as a result my tolerance to deal with other stresses during everyday life is reduced.
12. I feel vulnerable to triggering events when I experience extreme weather or when I read the news and learn about extreme weather impacting other parts of the world.
13. One of the worst triggers for me is hearing announcements from our provincial or federal governments announcing new fossil fuel developments. I find it deeply disturbing that our governments are still approving and providing funding for projects and infrastructure that will create more pollution and thus accelerate dangerous climate change. When I hear these announcements, I feel powerless, hopeless, and sad that our leaders are knowingly choosing a path that brings more harm. I do not understand why our governments are not taking aggressive measures to reduce the causes of dangerous climate change, but instead appear to be making choices that intensify the problem.
14. In my pursuit of treatment for my ecoanxiety, I helped to organize community support groups for people suffering from ecoanxiety in Saskatchewan. The facilitator I found created an 8-week structured program called Ecostress Regina. Ecostress Regina started in March of 2022 with two groups of ten people per group. I attended all 8 weeks of the structured program, and the participants of Ecostress Regina have continued to meet monthly ever since using Zoom to provide support, guidance, and community for Saskatchewan people concerned about climate change. I have found this group helpful, but it has not alleviated my symptoms noticeably in my daily life.
15. Dangerous climate change is already impacting my life and the choices I make in many ways. When the summer weather is unusually hot and we are under heat warnings, I do not venture outdoors with my son. The number of days with extreme heat in the Saskatchewan summers is growing because of dangerous climate change. Accordingly, when there are more days of

extreme heat, as we experienced in 2021, I cannot spend time outside in nature because the extreme heat is physically unbearable and because it causes me to worry more about the climate crisis, sending me into a spiral of anxiety and depression.

16. Forest fires are growing more frequent and burning larger areas due to dangerous climate change. When there is forest fire smoke in the air, I opt to stay indoors rather than go to the beach or go out for a bike ride or a walk. I know that forest fires are a natural phenomenon, but the frequency and breadth of the areas being burnt are growing each year due to the changing climate. Now when I book campsites for our annual summer vacation, I carefully research the location to determine whether the campground has been recently impacted by forest fire or severe windstorms recently. This has limited where our family chooses to vacation because we do not want to camp where the trees have been burned out or substantially damaged from high winds.
17. Dangerous climate change is known to increase the frequency and intensity of extreme weather. The last extreme rainfall event we experienced at our home was about 6 or 7 years ago but knowing that climate change is going to bring more extreme weather, my husband and I thought it prudent to try to make our home more resilient to these extremes. We recently completed preventative renovations to our home in Regina to make it more resilient to extreme weather. We water-proofed our basement by installing a membrane on the inside of the concrete along with weeping tile and a sump pump to mitigate flood risk during extreme rainfall. I estimate that the cost of installing the water-proofing membrane was about \$8,000. We have also conducted regular maintenance of eavestroughs and ensured that the grading near the house foundation is sloping away to prevent water ingress.
18. As climate change has progressed, and as it will continue to do so, I have struggled as a parent with how to inform and discuss the subject with my son. I know my son also experiences climate anxiety and he talks with a psychologist about this anxiety as well. As a parent I have tried my best to strike the right age-appropriate balance of providing him with enough knowledge and awareness of our environmental situation, but I have also tried not to overwhelm him. I have found this to be very difficult as a parent because I want him to know the facts so that he can prepare himself and think critically, but I also wish he did not have to know the grave reality of our situation. I worry about him, about his future, and about his mental health. I had hoped that he would have the same opportunities as earlier generations like mine, but I feel that our actions of burning fossil fuels without regard for the long-term consequences are violating the principle of intergenerational equity. I love my son very much, but I struggle with how best to discuss dangerous climate change in a way that provides him with the appropriate amount of information without causing him despair. I feel a sense of guilt when I burn fuel and contribute to the climate

crisis, and I take as many personal actions as I can to reduce my fossil fuel consumption, but in many ways, I feel powerless to make changes because I can't direct my utility providers (SaskPower and SaskEnergy) to pursue sustainable energy. So that guilt is pervasive when I turn on the lights, when I cook supper, when I take a warm shower; it is a constant feeling that is inescapable and it brings a sense of despair and sadness not only for me, but for my son and his future.

19. The government of Saskatchewan and its crown corporations like SaskPower cause my anxiety and depression to intensify when they continue to build new fossil gas-fired power plants like the ones at Swift Current, Moose Jaw, and other proposed sites.
20. I know that my ecoanxiety would be helped greatly if our government of Saskatchewan and SaskPower were demonstrating sincere effort to embrace and deploy all solutions to decarbonize our society. I despair because of the scale of the problem, and I don't know what more I can personally do, but I know that SaskPower and SaskEnergy could be investing substantially in renewable energy on a large scale and dramatically encouraging energy efficiency for both homeowners and businesses. The Saskatchewan government should recognize dangerous climate crisis as the existential threat that it is and accelerate the transition to sustainability.
21. If the Saskatchewan government recognized dangerous climate crisis as the existential threat that it is and worked to accelerate the transition to sustainability, I don't think I would feel such a sense of oppression and helpless despair. I know that Saskatchewan has the best solar resource in Canada, and we also have excellent wind resources. I know that our province could cooperate with neighboring provinces and the Federal government to focus on decarbonizing our energy. I know that it will take all of us working together toward this common cause if we are to mitigate the climate crisis in a way where we can adapt and avoid the most significant harms. I don't know if we will ever be able to adapt if we continue to burn more fossil fuels without regard. I know that if I was driving toward a known hazard, that if I saw signs warning me to slow down, that any prudent driver would slow down and even apply the brakes. I don't know why any reasonable government or Crown corporation would instead push down on the accelerator to speed up toward that hazard. I have this constant worry that our government will not react until it is too late.

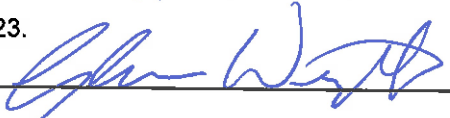
22. I make this Affidavit in support of the Originating Application along with the other co-applicants, anticipated to be filed early 2023, and for no unlawful purpose.

SWORN (OR AFFIRMED) BEFORE ME

at Regina, Saskatchewan,

this Saskatoon ^{Via electronic means} 21st day of March,

2023.



Commissioner for Oaths
for Saskatchewan

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(signature)