



Making a difference...together

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File: 0400-40

The Honourable Omar Alghabra
Minister of Transportation
Transport Canada
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0N5
Via email: tc.ministeroftransport-ministredestransports.tc@tc.gc.ca

Dear Minister Alghabra:

RE: VANCOUVER ISLAND RAIL CORRIDOR

I write to request your assistance with an important and time sensitive matter for the Province of British Columbia and the Capital Regional District (CRD), the regional government on Southern Vancouver Island.

As you are aware the Snaw-Naw-As Nation is seeking the segment of the Island Rail corridor that passes through their reserve to revert to the Nation as the corridor is currently not actively being used for railway purposes. The BC Court of Appeal has given Canada until March 2023 to determine its' intent for the corridor before the Nation can return to court to enforce its right of reversion. The Island Rail corridor is an approximately 295km rail corridor owned by the Island Corridor Foundation (ICF). ICF is ultimately responsible for infrastructure maintenance and repair along the corridor to restore rail service to Vancouver Island.

At the request of ICF and with the unanimous support of the CRD Board, we are encouraging the federal government to meet with the province, the Island Corridor Foundation and the CRD to update us on the federal position on this issue. The CRD Board believes protection of this important historic corridor is paramount at this time and a commitment of federal funding is urgently needed to signal that the federal government is determined to protect the rail corridor and see that the line is restored.

At the CRD Board meeting on July 13, 2022, the Board supported the Island Corridor Foundation request that the federal and provincial governments work together to create a multi-disciplinary team, reflecting all interests, to protect the corridor and advance rail transportation on Vancouver Island. The ICF and the CRD Board also request that the federal and provincial government equitably settle indigenous claims within and along the island rail corridor.

We will encourage the province of BC to engage with you on this initiative as well.



As CRD Chair I will commit to speaking with the other regional districts that have an interest in the corridor across Vancouver Island, encouraging them to attend any meetings the federal and provincial governments initiate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please feel free to contact me at any time, by email crdchair@crd.bc.ca or phone 250-514-1439 or to coordinate a meeting please contact Carolyn Jenkinson, Manager, Executive Administration by email cjenkinson@crd.bc.ca or phone 250-360-3125.

Sincerely,



Colin Plant
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD
Kevin Lorette, General Manager, Planning & Protective Services, CRD