



Making a difference...together

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July 15, 2022

0400-50

Alistair MacGregor
Member of Parliament – Cowichan – Malahat - Langford
Suite 101, 126 Ingram Street
Duncan, BC, V9L 1P1
Via email: alistair.macgregor@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. MacGregor:

RE: VANCOUVER ISLAND RAIL CORRIDOR

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

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 and provincial funding is urgently needed to signal that the senior governments are 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.

I have written to the Honourable Omar Alghabra, Federal Minister of Transportation, and the Honourable Rob Fleming, Provincial Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure requesting action on this issue. I ask for your assistance in ensuring federal engagement.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C. Plant', written in a cursive style.

Colin Plant
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

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