

**From:** [MacGregor, Alistair - M.P.](#)  
**To:** [MacGregor, Alistair - M.P.](#)  
**Subject:** Vancouver Island Railway  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 08, 2023 5:39:00 PM

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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for taking the time to write to my office with your concerns regarding the Island Rail Corridor.

First, I share your concerns regarding the fate and state of the rail corridor. BC Stats, the provincial government's statistical analysis agency, forecasts Vancouver Island's population will increase to nearly one million people by 2030; the Malahat Highway is already overly congested; and, across our country, increased investments in public transportation are desperately needed to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

However, it is important to recognize that restoring rail service on Vancouver Island won't be easy. The rail line passes through five Regional Districts, fourteen local municipalities, and thirteen First Nations. My sincere gratitude appreciation goes out to the organizations and individuals who continue to work diligently in the interest of restoring passenger rail service to the island.

As you may be aware, I have regular meetings with the Island Corridor Foundation, and, this past summer, I met with BC Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Honourable Rob Fleming, and Capital Region District Chair, Colin Plant, to discuss this issue specifically. Moreover, I continue to discuss this issue with my NDP colleagues, MPs Laurel Collins (Victoria), Randall Garrison (Esquimalt—Saanich—Sooke), Lisa Marie Barron (Nanaimo-Ladysmith), and Gord Johns (Courtenay-Alberni) whose ridings the rail corridor spans. Rest assured, we are trying to find a way forward with the rail, and we agree that work toward First Nations consultation is overdue and imperative.

As mandated by a [2021 BC Court of Appeals ruling](#), the future of the corridor now sits heavily in the hands of the federal Liberal government. On February 10, 2022, I had the opportunity to ask the government why it was dragging its heels on this issue; their response left much to be desired.

[WATCH – Question Period – Future of Vancouver Island Rail Corridor](#)

Should the federal government take initiative and start the meaningful consultations needed to advance this project, it is my hope that the BC Court would extend the deadline. Rest assured, I will continue advocating for this outcome.

Thank you again for making your voice heard on this important issue. I look forward to our further correspondence.

Sincerely,

**Alistair MacGregor, MP**

Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

NDP Critic for Food Price Inflation, Agriculture and Agri-Food, Deputy Critic for Justice /

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