

September 27, 2023

File: 0230-20

Island Corridor Foundation
Attention: Daniel Arbour, Chair
PO 375 Stn A
Nanaimo BC V9R 5L3
Via email: chairperson@islandrail.ca

Dear Chair Arbour:

RE: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT POLICY DIRECTION FOR ISLAND RAIL CORRIDOR

On September 13, 2023, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board provided policy direction to recognize the historic and ongoing access, safety, and economic development impacts of the island rail corridor on First Nations.

The CRD Board supports the reversion of land from the portions of the island rail corridor extracted from reserves to First Nations, and requests the Island Corridor Foundation and provincial and federal governments expedite land reversion. In addition, the CRD Board requests that the Province continue to convene meetings of all participants. CRD staff will continue to participate in joint working groups to support the land reversion process and determination of a future vision for the corridor that includes consideration of existing assets.

The CRD Board is committed to a joint planning process to determine the future of the island rail corridor that is rooted in a reconciliation-based approach. Land reversion is a necessary step prior to further dialogue about the future of the corridor.

We look forward to continuing to work with First Nations, the Island Corridor Foundation and federal and provincial governments on this process.

Sincerely,



Colin Plant
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
Capital Regional District Board
Cowichan Valley Regional District
Comox Valley Regional District
Cowichan Tribes
Halalt First Nation
Hupačasath First Nation
K'ómoks First Nation
Malahat Nation
Minister of Indigenous Relations and
Reconciliation

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Penelakut Tribe
Qualicum First Nation
Regional District of Nanaimo
Snaw-Naw-As First Nation
Snuneymuxw First Nation
Songhees Nation
Stz'uminus First Nation
Tseshaht First Nation
Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation
xwsepsem Nation