



Making a difference...together

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File: 0400-40

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

Dear Minister Alghabra:

RE: VANCOUVER ISLAND RAIL CORRIDOR

We write to you with a sense of urgency as we are aware a decision on the future of the Island Rail corridor is required in the near future. We believe it is in the national, provincial and regional interests to protect this corridor and advance First Nations reconciliation efforts.

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). The ICF is ultimately responsible for infrastructure maintenance and repair along the corridor to restore rail service to Vancouver Island.

Our regional districts, comprising over 610,000 residents on Vancouver Island are encouraging the federal government to meet with the province, the ICF and ourselves to update us on the federal position on this issue.

Our Boards believe 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.

Regional District Boards across Vancouver Island previously supported the ICF's 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. We also request that the federal and provincial government equitably settle Indigenous claims within and along the Island Rail Corridor.

We have written to the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations regarding this issue and ask for your assistance in ensuring federal engagement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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cc: The Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations
Regional District Boards on Vancouver Island
All Vancouver Island Member of the Legislative Assembly
All Vancouver Island Members of Parliament