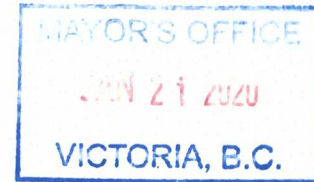


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January 16, 2020

Honourable Claire Trevena, Minister
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Office of the Minister
Parliament Buildings, BC V8V 1X4



Dear Minister Trevena,

Re: Revitalizing Island Rail

As President of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities, I am writing to advise you of a resolution on Revitalizing Island Rail that was endorsed by AVICC members at our 2019 Convention. This resolution was forwarded to the Union of BC Municipalities for consideration at its September convention. The resolution was deemed to relate to a regionally specific issue, and referred back to the AVICC.

AVICC members are elected officials who represent 53 local governments on Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast, Powell River (qathet), the Central Coast and the North Coast. Our members have repeatedly expressed their support for the preservation of Vancouver Island's railway corridor to serve Island communities. At the 2019 VIEA Summit our members in attendance were cheered to hear the Premier note the importance of the railway as an issue to be addressed by the Province.

AVICC members recognize that funding the repair and operation of the railway is beyond the financial capabilities of local governments with the limited revenue tools currently available to our level of government. That is why we are calling for the Province to take immediate action to secure the necessary funding before this important and irreplaceable piece of Island infrastructure is lost.

The railway is not just an issue for the Province, there is also a role for the federal government to play. The federal government – like the Province – has previously pledged funds for this purpose. AVICC would like to encourage the Province to work with the federal government and start using the funds to preserving the corridor lands and restoring the railway service.

While there have been many AVICC resolutions on this topic over the years, the specific resolution that was supported by our members in 2019 came from the City of Victoria, and reads as follows:

R8) Revitalizing Island Rail

City of Victoria

WHEREAS one of the conditions of the original Order-in-Council establishing the Esquimalt and Nanaimo (E&N) now Island Corridor Foundation (ICF) railway corridor is that if the corridor is no longer needed or used for railway purposes, it goes back to the original owner and assembling a similar multi-modal corridor connecting the Alberni Inlet to the Comox Valley to Greater Victoria in the context of current land values and land uses would be impossible to replicate;

AND WHEREAS repair of the railway infrastructure can only reasonably be accomplished by way of capital investment from senior levels of government, in co-operation with First Nations and local governments and respecting first nations interests, rail transport and a parallel trail system are integral sustainable transportation options for Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in the context of climate change, including the option of electrified rail for the sustainable movement of people and goods on the island:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia take immediate actions to provide sufficient funding in a timely manner to restore the railway infrastructure of Vancouver Island and ensure that the corridor remains intact and available to future generations of Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.

AVICC members request that the Province secure the necessary funding to protect and revitalize the line without delay.

Thank you for the continued support of your Ministry with local government initiatives.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Carl Jensen,
President, AVICC

cc: Honourable John Horgan, Premier of BC
Honourable Carole James, Deputy Premier of BC and Minister of Finance
Mayor Lisa Helps, City of Victoria