



The Trails Society of British Columbia

February 23 2026

Daniel Scott
A/ Director of Trails and Trail Infrastructure
Parks and Recreation Program
BC Ministry of Environment and Parks
sent via email to: k██████@gov.bc.ca

Dear Daniel Scott,

We strongly request deferral of the Province's decision to decommission the section of the Trans Canada Trail between Princeton and the Coldwater River. We appreciate the management concerns of this corridor especially considering the prediction of increased impacts from the climate emergency, however additional comprehensive consultation is requested.

You are already aware, Trails Society of BC is a volunteer-driven organization started in 1994 to place the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) in British Columbia with the Government of British Columbia. If this section of trail is removed, the public will lose a critical link for active travel and active outdoor recreation between Hope and Castlegar.

There are several important reasons for the BC government to protect the Trans Canada Trail corridor from decommissioning/further degradation. The rail trails and pathways that make up the TCT were always intended to be for active outdoor recreation. Without a comprehensive and funded management plan there will continue to be underlying political conflict and

degradation to the trail. This national trail also has value as a long distance corridor that provides connectivity for wildlife and habitat and neighbouring riparian and remote ecosystems in need of conservation.

We request the Province include us to ensure development of a management plan for the KVR corridor and the other sections of trail that make up the Trans Canada Trail. Our goal is to ensure people of all ages and abilities have an active travel route off of highways and roads.

Therefore we recommend;

1. Deferral of decommissioning of the section between Princeton and the Coldwater River (Brodie). There needs to be land management consultations with the public and communities to create management alternatives for the KVR Rail Trail corridor. One option would be to legislate a long distance provincial trail corridor encompassing the entire trail route between Hope and Castlegar.
2. Seek inspiration from the collaboration models developed for the Okanagan Rail Trail and the Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail. With connection and strong relationships between local, regional, provincial and federal partners considerable investment and collaboration, a plan can be developed to ensure trail development and maintenance into the future.
3. There must be increased accountability for how decisions are made by the Province. It is important to know how decisions are made by the government to know who and what forces are influencing public policy.
4. Trails Society of BC has not been properly consulted, despite our involvement in establishing and development of the TCT as a volunteer-driven organization started in 1994. Furthermore since the 2021 atmospheric river damage to sections of the KVR, we have been actively pursuing a new alignment to connect the TCT from Britton Creek to Brodie Station on the east side of the Coldwater River to avoid the requirement for replacement bridges and on to Brookmere to avoid use of Highway 5. This and options other local organizations propose have the potential to significantly reduce the costs of restoring the TCT as an active transportation route. It does not need to be built back to accommodate heavy vehicles.

5. This is an opportunity to create a long-distance recreational corridor for ecosystem protections along the ecologically diverse riparian corridors on this long distance corridor. We support additional investment in the Trans Canada Trail to enable people of all ages and abilities to recreate safely, comfortably and efficiently. Local jurisdictions do not have the ability to fund the current model and the entire corridor needs to be comprehensively managed and maintained.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Ciel Sander
Board President of Trails Society of BC
Greenwood BC (Kettle River Watershed)
Situated on unceded traditional territory of Syilx and Sinixt
250-██████████
ciel██████████@trailsbc.ca

cc;d sent via email to:

Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport ██████████
Honourable Tamara Davidson, Minister of Parks and Environment ██████████
Honourable Brittny Anderson, Minister of State for Local Government & Rural Communities
██████████
Honourable Spencer Chandra Herbert, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
██████████
Spencer Coyne, Mayor of Princeton, BC ██████████@██████████.ca, ██████████@gmail.com
MLA Donegal Wilson, Boundary-Similkameen Donegal. ██████████@leg.bc.ca
MP Helena Konanz, Similkameen-South Okanagan-West Kootenay ██████████@parl.gc.ca
The Honourable Julie Aviva Dabrusin, Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature
██████████@ec.gc.ca
Mathieu Roy, CEO Trans Canada Trail ██████████@tctrail.ca
Richard Porges, President & CEO Destination BC ██████████@DestinationBC.ca
Alison McKay, VP Destination Management ██████████@DestinationBC.ca
Ellen Walker-Mathews, CEO Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association ██████████@totabc.ca
Chair Mark Pendergraft, Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen ██████████@rdos.bc.ca
Loyal Wooldridge, Regional District of Central Okanagan ██████████@kelowna.ca
Barbara Roden, Thompson Nicola Regional District ██████████@ashcroftbc.ca
Grace McGregor Regional District of Kootenay Boundary ██████████@rdkb.com
Kate Berniaz, Clean Transportation & Programs Branch, Victoria ██████████@gov.bc.ca