

Meeting: January 09, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

Delegation: Dave Hayden, President/CEO & Alex Stuart, Managing Director – Island Rail Corporation

Subject: Private Sector Capital & Expertise to Rebuilding Vancouver Island Rail Network

Summary: Covering Letter to the Board attached

Action Requested: Resolutions of Support, as outlined in a covering letter to the Board

*Please note: This delegation plans to attend in person
They will have a presentation.*

Nov. 21st, 2023

**Nanaimo Regional District
Board of Directors**

A Vision for Contemporary Rail on Vancouver Island

Dear Members:

Island Rail Corporation (IRC) achieved federal and inter-provincial incorporation in both Alberta and British Columbia in March 2023, following an exhaustive thirty-month period of meticulous evaluation. This strategic move was a culmination aimed at addressing the historical legacy of Vancouver Island's E&N Railway and the subsequent establishment of the Island Corridor Foundation (ICF), an entity pivotal in safeguarding the corridor for the Island's communities."

As we navigate the ongoing path of reconciliation, rectifying past injustices stands as a vital component. The railway corridor on Vancouver Island presents a distinct opportunity to acknowledge and address historical grievances faced by the fourteen Indigenous Communities affected by the railway's placement on their ancestral lands.

"Island Rail Corporation is enthusiastic about presenting proposed resolutions to redress the historical ramifications of the rail's past, concurrently offering a forward-looking solution that encompasses comprehensive benefits for all Vancouver Island communities. The enclosed presentation delivers an insightful overview, encompassing essential points and actionable recommendations for the discerning consideration of the RND Board.

- ✚ Island Rail Corporation and its consortium of companies are passionately dedicated to reinvigorating contemporary rail systems that can transcend generations. Our enthusiasm is directed towards fostering collaborative partnerships with all Indigenous communities, inviting their participation in crafting a state-of-the-art rail network and the diverse businesses that will flourish alongside it. Present estimates place the capital costs at a substantial \$1.5 billion, encompassing Port Alberni Port Authority harbor enhancements and proposed improvements for the 'Iron Hwy' connecting HARMAC Pacific, Lower Mainland Port-to-Port-to-Port, and associated infrastructure upgrades amounting to over \$1 billion.

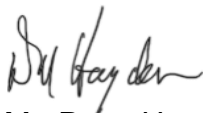
- ✚ We advocate for a Regional Board resolution to facilitate the return of ICF lands to all fourteen Indigenous Communities. Leveraging Section VI of the ICF's Letter Patent, the Indigenous Communities can oversee these lands through an Indigenous Governance Body, ensuring their guardianship for future purposes.
- ✚ Additionally, we support a Regional Board resolution endorsing compensation for historical injustices faced by Indigenous Communities. This could involve financial settlements aligned with the mandate embraced by the Indigenous Governance Body, forming an integral part of the terms for reclaiming the ICF lands.
- ✚ Recognizing the indispensable role of the private sector, we encourage a Regional Board resolution emphasizing their expertise and capital infusion, pivotal in establishing contemporary rail that caters to the long-term needs of Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders across generations.
- ✚ Furthermore, we advocate for a Regional Board resolution, if not in place already, facilitating discussions between the RND and Indigenous Communities within its jurisdiction. Such meetings aim to solidify mutual collaboration in establishing contemporary rail while addressing specific safety concerns integral to its design.

Island Rail Corporation continues active engagement with all Indigenous Communities whose lands historically housed the railway. Our dialogues pivot around their concerns, aspirations for future generations, and the drive to create socio-economically sustainable businesses for the next seven generations. This approach promises benefits not just for Vancouver Island but, arguably, the wider world.

We respectfully urge Nanaimo's Regional Board to unanimously support the outlined approach. Similar support will be sought from all Regional Governments across Vancouver Island.

Schedule 'A' – Compelling Data is provided to demonstrate the urgency and need for completely rebuilding Vancouver Island's Rail Network for the next 7-Generations and beyond.

Respectfully Yours,



Mr. Dave Hayden, President/CEO

Schedule 'A'

Compelling Data in Support of Contemporary Rail

- I. Island Rail Corporation confirms its Phase One for a Port-to-Port-to-Port 'Iron Hwy' for cargo movement will handle some 144,000 train loads in its first year of operation.
- II. Port Alberni Port Authorities independent studies confirm it has the capacity to handle 5+ Million TEU per yr.
- III. Island Rail Corporation (IRC) confirms it has an Indigenous Owned company looking to own/operate the custom rail barges between the proposed Port of HARMAC – Lower Mainland operations. This capital investment exceeds one hundred million dollars.
- IV. IRC confirms Vancouver Island lands needed for sidings and Transload facilities.
- V. IRC confirms the support of the MALAHAT SKYWALK for Hydrogen Powered Passenger Rail between Greater Victoria – top of Malahat and point North, over time.
- VI. The initial phase can be operational during 2024 with all stakeholder support.
- VII. IRC confirms costing for all bridgeworks to be replaced and/or significantly enhanced to meet the needs of contemporary rail. It is noted that our proposed contemporary rail will operate on 136 lb rail, complete with new ties and rail aggregate base.
- VIII. IRC confirm private capital interest and expects Canadian Infrastructure Funding given the Federal Governments \$180 BILLION Dollar (2016) allocation.
- IX. Vancouver Island's status as Canada newest Foreign Trade Zone will play a significant role on our Island's growth and attracting International Capital.
- X. The most important fact associated with Contemporary Rail being built is the role the Indigenous Communities can have in defining and building their communities for the next 7-Generations. A role that will impact all of Vancouver Island for the better.