

BC Trail Fund Proposal



Steve Andrews photo

Prepared by the
Outdoor Recreation Council of BC

With support from the
Provincial Trails Advisory Body



Outdoor Recreation
Council of BC

BC Trail Fund Proposal - Executive Summary

Issue

British Columbia's 44,000 km of sanctioned recreational trails, 83% of which lie outside our provincial parks, need a dedicated trail fund to support their annual maintenance needs and limit liability exposure to the Province. Most trails are in a moderate to an advanced state of degradation due to the lack of stable funding for trail maintenance and ever-growing usage.

Trails across the province rely on over 200 community-based nonprofit organizations that provide essential construction and routine maintenance. They contribute an estimated minimum of 62,000 volunteer hours annually. These same groups report concern over trail deterioration due to the lack of necessary financial support to fund their upkeep. Given more funding, they report an extremely high likelihood of taking on further trail projects.

Well-managed trails and healthy outdoor spaces are integral to BC's outdoor recreation economy and our reputation as a world-class destination. They facilitate rural economic development, achieve community health benefits, foster reconciliation through increased Indigenous representation in recreation, and reduce impacts on the environment, species at risk and archaeological values.

Supporting the ongoing work of community-based recreation groups is the most cost-effective way for the Province to manage trails and other recreational infrastructure. With easier access to dedicated funding for trail maintenance and enhancement, trail stewards can spend less time fundraising and more time improving BC's trails and developing these valuable community assets.

Solution

The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC invites the Province of British Columbia to make a \$10 million seed contribution to help launch the BC Trail Fund. The vision of the new fund is to establish a vehicle for engaging the broader community to partner with BC's trail stewardship groups to pursue a world-renowned, sustainable provincial trail network.

The key objectives of the grant program are to:

- Maintain and enhance the existing recreational trail network.
- Improve the quality of the existing recreational trail network and user experience through improvements to safety, signage and access.
- As funding permits, develop new trail and recreation infrastructure projects.

The fund will prioritize considerations that advance the goals of the Province and specifically those of the Trails Strategy for British Columbia. Priorities include:

- Supporting Indigenous Peoples through involvement and cultural respect.
- Promoting collaboration in trail planning, development and maintenance.
- Fostering diverse and inclusive participation in trail-based recreation.
- Increasing opportunities for physical activities for all ability levels.
- Supporting sustainability and environmental stewardship.
- Contributing to rural development and community-based tourism opportunities.

Many sectors are interested in seeing BC's trail system restored and improved. To date, ORCBC has received 45 letters from communities, Indigenous and local governments, recreational groups, gear manufacturers and tourism showing their support for the fund.

The BC Trail Fund, when established, will offer reliable and consistent access to grants for eligible nonprofit organizations, First Nations and local governments that manage and maintain BC's trails. It will be jointly managed by the ORCBC and the Vancouver Foundation, with oversight by an advisory committee. ORCBC will solicit additional contributions from other levels of government, corporations, foundations and individuals to create a significant endowment that will provide continuing benefits for BC communities and their visitors.

Supporting Trail Stewards & Fostering Thriving Communities

This proposal invites the Province of British Columbia to make a \$10 million contribution as part of a new fund that will provide financial support to community-based recreation organizations, Indigenous Nations and local governments that deliver ongoing stewardship of the province's network of recreational trails and facilities.

The BC Trail Fund is created in response to a longstanding need for a reliable and diverse funding model to support BC's trail system. It will be managed by the Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia and the Vancouver Foundation, with oversight by an advisory committee.

Contributions will be solicited from government, corporations, foundations and individuals as part of an ongoing fund development program.

Introduction

Trails and recreation areas in BC have seen unprecedented usage levels during the pandemic as British Columbians have looked for ways to stay active, improve their overall well-being, connect socially with friends and explore the province. There are no signs to suggest that the current interest levels will wane in the future. The booming interest has put extraordinary pressure on the outdoors, and consequently, BC's recreation infrastructure, the natural environment and cultural values are showing significant damage and degradation due to insufficient routine maintenance and overuse.

British Columbia (BC) has more than 44,000 kilometres of officially recognized trails that receive visits from millions of locals and visitors each year. The provincial trail network facilitates many different outdoor activities and supports healthy active lifestyles, tourism, rural economic development, environmental awareness, accessibility and inclusion, and reconciliation through increased Indigenous representation in recreation planning, development and management¹.

The development and maintenance of BC trails and recreation infrastructure rely heavily on grassroots support from over two hundred community-based recreation groups who report increasing burnout and face limited access to funding to support their work, especially for trail improvements. As a result, British Columbians experience closed trails,

¹ ORCBC (2021): [17 Trail Benefits for British Columbians](#).

deteriorating trail conditions, and overcrowding, and the Province misses out on many health, social and economic benefits.

These issues will continue to worsen especially with the growth in trail-based recreation and without improved access to dedicated financial resources that can address the current backlog of deferred maintenance and ongoing routine upkeep².

In its report on the 2022 budget consultation³, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services acknowledged the significant surge in park and trail usage during the pandemic and how the increased use has resulted in under-maintained trails being further eroded due to financial shortages and an operational reliance on volunteers. Among its recommendations, the committee recommended: "provide increased funding for parks, recreation and trails to address gaps in maintenance and staff, including dedicated funding to community-based organizations for trail maintenance and development." The proposed trail fund addresses the committee's recommendations.

Proposal

The Trails Strategy for British Columbia⁴ and recent user surveys identify inconsistent and insufficient funding for the upkeep of BC's recreation infrastructure as a barrier to the sustainable development and maintenance of trails in BC and to achieving the vision of a world-class trail system.

Supporting the existing work of community-based trail steward groups, local governments and First Nations is a very cost-effective way for the Province to manage sites and trails on Crown lands. These groups often leverage volunteer hours, in-kind resources, and expertise that reduce the cost of trail work. Providing the groups with funding allows the Province to continuously benefit from resources that only these groups can access.

The Province of BC is currently missing an opportunity to further derive value from community-based trail steward groups. A survey of BC's trail organizations⁵ showed that the responding organizations working on trails contribute over 62,900 volunteer hours per year, valued at around \$1.6 million. They maintain over 8,500 kilometres of trails per year. This is the equivalent of 20% of all the Province's officially recognized trails. However, these volunteers are burning out due to the difficulties in accessing resources to support their work. The responding organizations perceive accessing funds to be very difficult. Furthermore, about 50% of them cannot undertake trail projects because of a lack of

² ORCBC (2020): [Trail Fund Recommendations](#).

³ Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (2021): [Report on the 2022 Budget Consultation](#).

⁴ Province of BC (2013): [Trails Strategy for British Columbia](#).

⁵ ORCBC (2020): [Trail Survey Findings and Results](#).

funding, and 90% of organizations surveyed would be highly likely to apply for trail funding if available. The groups' interest in furthering their capacity to care for trail infrastructure represents an incredible opportunity for the Province.

The need for trail funding across the province is varied and diverse. The fund can be designed to meet different needs and evolve over time. To illustrate, existing funds that support trail projects have funded projects that cost between \$900 to \$980,000, with most project costs landing between \$15,000 to \$20,000. An analysis of the trail survey data showed the likelihood of trail organizations needing between \$993,750.00 and \$1,987,500 (based on the needs of 50 and 100 organizations respectively)⁶ each year.

This first-of-its-kind fund in BC will offer grants to eligible organizations to undertake trail and recreation facility enhancement and maintenance across BC, serving all types of trail users and communities.

The Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia (ORCBC) will administer the fund in partnership with the Vancouver Foundation as the fund manager, and an advisory committee will make funding recommendations that will be submitted to the ORCBC board of directors for final approval.

As an initial investment, we request a meaningful contribution from the Province of BC to create a fund that provides a perpetual funding source. Additional funding will be sought from other levels of government, corporations, foundations and individuals, as part of an ongoing fund development program.

Vision and Goals

The BC Trail Fund's vision is to establish a vehicle for engaging the broader community to partner with BC's trail stewardship groups to pursue a world-renowned, sustainable provincial trail network.

The fund will provide reliable and consistent access to grants for eligible non-profit organizations, First Nations and local governments that are involved in delivering continued stewardship and maintenance of trails; it leverages funds from different sources and provides an efficient and effective way for corporations, organizations and individuals to support outdoor recreation in BC financially.

The overarching objectives for the grant program include to:

- Maintain and enhance the existing recreational trail network.
- Improve the quality of the existing recreational trail network or user experience, including safety improvements, signage, wayfinding, and barriers to access.

⁶ ORCBC (2022): [Fund Size Analysis](#).

- As funding permits, new trail and recreation infrastructure projects.

While the priority is to support trail maintenance and enhancements, it is possible for this fund also to support new trail and infrastructure developments, along with trail programs that promote safety; diversity, inclusion, accessibility and equity; Indigenous stewardship; and other types of applicants who require help in accessing funds for trail and recreation projects.

When established, this fund could be the first funding stream in a larger and broader BC Outdoor Fund that focuses on enhancing infrastructure through the BC Trail Fund, inspiring British Columbians about the outdoors through education, outreach and programs, while protecting habitats and cultural values through monitoring, evaluation and research.

Linkages to the BC Trail Strategy

The BC Trail Fund supports the vision of the Trails Strategy of British Columbia: "A world-renowned, sustainable network of trails, with opportunities for all, which provides benefits for trails users, communities and the Province."

The guidelines of the provincial trails strategy are:

- Respect, recognition and engagement with First Nations' governments.
- Sound environmental stewardship and management.
- Mutual respect between trail interests and other resource users.
- Respect and understanding among diverse trail interests.
- Partnerships and collaboration.
- Secure recreation opportunities for all trail users.
- Benefits for individuals, communities, tourism and the Province.

The evaluation criteria of the fund will intentionally direct applicants to prioritize several considerations in their application that advance the goals of the trails strategy:

- Indigenous support, involvement and respect for Indigenous values.
- Collaboration in trail planning, development and maintenance.
- Fostering diverse and inclusive participation in trail-based recreation.
- Increasing opportunities for physical activities for all ability levels.
- Sustainability and environmental stewardship.
- Contribution to rural development and community-based tourism opportunities.

Benefits of the BC Trail Fund

Some of the benefits of the fund include:

- Support the Province of BC's ongoing efforts to create true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in BC by fostering opportunities at the local level for inter-community relationship building, cultural heritage protection and celebration.
- Facilitate activities that are important to British Columbians and our visitors, including repairing damaged trails, increasing accessibility for various users, addressing environmental issues, incorporating Indigenous culture and heritage values, and improving or adding trail infrastructure and amenities.
- Establish an ongoing vehicle for engaging the broader community to partner with BC's trail stewardship groups to pursue a world-renowned, sustainable provincial trail network. When established, considerations may be given to upscaling and creating a larger and broader BC Outdoor Fund with additional funding streams for programs and initiatives that foster diverse and inclusive participation in outdoor recreation and protects habitats and cultural values.
- It is due mainly to the hard work of thousands of volunteers that trails and recreation facilities continue to exist. Supporting the existing work of community-based trail steward groups is a very cost-effective way for the Province to manage trails and other recreational infrastructure. By providing easier access to dedicated funds for trail maintenance and enhancement, trail stewards can spend less time fundraising and more time improving trails and developing valuable community assets.

Fund Management

The fund is set up as a partnership between the Vancouver Foundation as the fund manager and the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC is responsible for administering the grant program, dispersing funds, soliciting additional funding and promoting the fund.

A dedicated BC Trail Fund Advisory Committee provides oversight and will review and recommend successful funding proposals to the ORCBC board of directors for final approval. Grant intakes will initially take place once a year. Membership will include representatives from ORCBC, provincial and local governments, Indigenous organizations or governments, trail groups, tourism organizations and the outdoor sector at large. Committee members will get appointed by the Provincial Trails Advisory Body for a two-year term.

The annual fund management costs, based on a \$10 endowment million fund, are \$230,000⁷ and approximately \$350,000⁸ will be made in annual distributions to successful applicants if the entire investment is put into an endowment. If a portion of

⁷ [Annual cost recovery fees based on a \\$10M endowment to the Vancouver Foundation are \\$130,000](#) (0.70% administrative and 0.60% investment management) and to the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC are \$100,000 (administration, fundraising and promotion).

⁸ [Based on a 4% of the market value \(net after Vancouver Foundation fees\).](#)

the investment is entered into a transferrable fund, additional annual funds can be released as grants. With added contributions from other funding sources, the annual disbursements will increase.

Eligibility and Matching Requirements

This fund is intended for non-profit organizations, local governments and First Nations based in BC. Projects must be "publicly accessible," meaning a trail on public land or accessible to the public under reasonable conditions, and must be operated on a non-commercial basis. The proposed work must be authorized by the landowner or land manager.

Eligible projects include:

- Maintenance and enhancements of the existing recreational trail network, including bridge and water crossing construction, upgrades and rehabilitation.
- Improvements of the quality of the current recreational trail network or the users' experience, including safety improvements, signage, wayfinding, horse corrals and barriers to access.
- As funding permits, new trail and recreation infrastructure projects.

Funding requests are needs-based, and there is no set minimum or maximum amount for which applicants can apply. Based on discussions with the Provincial Trails Advisory Body, survey data, and data from existing funds, we expect most grants will be between \$2,000 to \$10,000.

The funding will be provided as matching grants to eligible recipients for eligible projects. Projects must include matching contributions from other sources, which can be a combination of monetary and in-kind gifts such as volunteer time, donated labour, equipment, services, and materials from other sources. The overall objective for the grant is a match ratio of 1:1. The monetary contribution must be a minimum of 50% of the matching contributions.

About Us

The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC has prepared this proposal with significant support from the Provincial Trails Advisory Body. It is the result of a project which was initiated in 2020 to investigate, propose and set up a new dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism for trail maintenance in BC.

The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC is an umbrella organization composed of more than 60 organizational members that represent the broad and diverse spectrum of outdoor recreation user groups in BC, including paddlers, hikers, mountain bikers, and off-road motorcyclists, equestrians, snowmobilers, quad riders, anglers and nature interests. We work to promote and advocate for access to and responsible use of BC's outdoors for public recreation, build bridges between outdoor recreation groups and represent the broad interests of the public outdoor recreation community to government.

Launched by the Province in 2015, the Provincial Trails Advisory Body (PTAB) is a working group made up of 15 members, including two co-chairs, eight individuals representing public outdoor recreation, four provincial government agencies and a regional government representative. The PTAB's primary role is to provide advice to the government on implementation strategies consistent with the intent of the trails strategy; to lead a periodic, formal review of the Trails Strategy; and provide a collaborative forum for the many trail organizations and interests to ensure that the Trails Strategy continues to meet the needs of all trail users.

Resources

This is a list of documents that the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC and the Provincial Trails Advisory Body have created in association with the development of the BC Trail Fund:

- [Fund Size Analysis](#) (2022).
- [Funding Guidelines and Eligibility](#) (2022).
- [Approaches to Building a BC Trail Fund](#) (2021).
- [Trail Fund Recommendations: Report to the PTAB](#) (2020).
- [Trail Survey Findings and Results](#) (2020).

Contact

Louise Pedersen, Executive Director, Outdoor Recreation Council of BC
louisepedersen@orc.bc.ca and 604-873-5546

Scott Benton, Executive Director, BC River Outfitters Association
dscottbenton@gmail.com

Letters of Support

Organizations listed alphabetically



Alpine Club of Canada-Whistler Section

Mailing address: 1035 Seal Road, Comox, B.C., V9M 4B6

March 15, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Alpine Club of Canada-Whistler Section supports and promotes year-round human powered recreation. As such our members spend considerable time in the backcountry and are very familiar with the trails systems in B.C. We have 392 members throughout B.C. and other areas.

As our members are frequent users of backcountry trails, we are very familiar with the urgent need for a dedicated trail fund that would ensure the ongoing maintenance of the existing trail system. With the dramatic increase in backcountry use over the past few years the need to maintain existing trails and create new trails is crucial. Trail funding has not kept pace with the increasing number of backcountry users. In fact, proportionally trail funding has declined when compared to the number of backcountry users. Many of the trails in B.C. are maintained by volunteers and non-profit organizations that do not have the financial resources to properly maintain the trail networks. The \$10 million B.C. Trail endowment fund would ensure that there is long-term funding to maintain B.C. trails.

At a time when more people are using the trail system to experience the outdoors, it is vital that secure long-term funding for trails is made available. Supporting non-motorized recreation in B.C. adds clean healthy non-polluting economic benefit to many communities throughout B.C.

We strongly support the \$10 million endowment for the B.C. Trail Fund.

Sincerely,

Bryce Leigh

Access & Environment Director and Chair
Alpine Club of Canada- Whistler Section



Back Country Horsemen Society of British Columbia

Date March 14, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

We are writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

Back Country Horsemen Society of BC (BCHBC) has been a Provincial non-profit society since 1991, with 19 Chapters around the Province and an average of over 900 members annually. Through collaboration with individuals, government, business and other recreational users of public lands, we strive to preserve and enhance the use of public lands for all equestrians. Our focus is on safety for horses and riders, environmental stewardship, trail building and maintenance. We currently have 12 Stewardship Partnership Agreements with RSTBC and BC Parks along with additional arrangements with Provincial Government and Regional Districts showing our commitment to our trails and facilities for all users.

The BC Trails Fund is needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC. And it's needed by the many businesses and advocates who're seeking to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies but haven't benefitted from the COVID recovery grants. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about Back Country Horsemen Society of BC, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Brian Marriott

BCHBC President

president@bchorsemen.org

1-250-919-8150

Linda Buchanan

Chair BCHBC Trails Committee

trailcommittee@bchorsemen.org

1-778-257-7700

BC AdventureSmart
114 – 3989 Henning Drive
Burnaby, B.C.
V5C 6N5



Date: March 14, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

BC AdventureSmart increases awareness to help reduce the number and severity of search and rescue incidents in British Columbia. As part of the national program, that started in BC 18 years ago by the BC SAR Association, we collaborate with industry partners, using data driven insights to create targeted initiatives to meet our goals.

This fund is needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC. And it's needed by the many businesses and advocates who're seeking to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy.

The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies but haven't benefitted from the COVID recovery grants. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur.

The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about BC AdventureSmart, please contact me directly at execdirector@adventuresmartbc.ca or call 604-671-2241.

Sincerely,

Sandra Riches
Executive Director
BC AdventureSmart



**British Columbia
Lodging and
Campgrounds
Association**

Suite 209, 3003 St. John's Street. Port Moody, BC V3H 2C4
Phone: 778.383.1037
anne@bclca.com www.travel-british-columbia.com

February 23, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

We are writing in support of the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for an endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The BC Lodging and Campgrounds Association (BCLCA) is a not-for-profit trade association and consumer marketing organization. Created in 1944, BC Lodging and Campgrounds Association is membership driven and represents the interests of over 400 of British Columbia's independently owned and operated small and mid-size lodging and campground/RV park businesses.

Campers have a love for the outdoors! Study after study report hiking and backpacking as the most popular activity for campers. Hiking and backpacking require networks of well-maintained trails and loops that allow people to spend the day enjoying their outdoor experience.

COVID-19 has created a boom in camping. New people have entered the lifestyle and lapsed campers have revisited as other travel plans collapsed. The unexpected onset of the COVID-19 pandemic created an overwhelming need for reflection, connection, and nostalgia. People began to connect with the outdoors as transmission was diminished and it allowed people to connect with others rather than hide indoors. This has led to increased use of trails and pressure on the volunteers and groups that maintain these trails to keep them operational and accessible to higher traffic volumes.

"Working Together For Your Success"



Page 2 – BC Trail Fund – Letter of Support

The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces cannot just rely on the goodwill of volunteers and trail groups there is a need for ongoing and dedicated funding to address deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage, so that the trail network is sustainable day-to-day and year-to-year. This fund is very much needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC. And it's needed by the tourism sector too.

It is BCLCA's strong belief that "The BC Trail Fund" will help ensure that there's a long-term generational plan for caring for these valuable outdoor assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and experiencing the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province. Better maintain trails will benefit visitors and generate a first-class outdoor sustainable experience for our guests of the future.

If you require more information about the BC Lodging and Campgrounds Association, please contact me at jpenny@bclca.com.

Sincerely,

Joss Penny

Executive Director

BC Lodging and Campgrounds Association



BC MARINE TRAILS

March 14, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The BC Marine Trails (BCMT) was formed in 2009 to establish marine routes along the coastline. Its charitable purposes are to identify, map and preserve a network of marine access points and public recreational sites along the British Columbia coastline for use by the general public and to protect the environment for the benefit of the public by conducting environmental stewardship projects designed to preserve and protect flora and fauna. The BCMT follows a three-pillar approach in our operations: respectful First Nations engagement, development of safe marine trails (i.e. safe distances between sites) and protecting the environment through our Marine Trail Code of Conduct and stewardship projects.

The BC Marine Trails manages or co-manages 17 sites including recreational sites and building a site on a park. There has only been limited funding to support maintenance and virtually no funding to support infrastructure. We also need to work closely and respectfully with First Nations as part of reconciliation efforts when building trails. There are no funds. In the past two years, the BCMT has seen a dramatic increase in local site usage and more people using our trails and resources. Proper funding by the province is needed for upkeep, stewardship, citizen-based reconciliation, infrastructure, and other endeavours. Clearly, smaller communities benefit from the work of non-profits. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

The BCMT looks forward to the formation of the BC Trail Fund and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

For more information contact us at any time.

Sincerely,

Paul Grey

President of the BCMT



March 18, 2022

To Whom It May Concern

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

BC's trail system is one of the most valued assets of local governments assets. Residents and tourists visit our outdoor spaces in increasingly high numbers, and the pandemic has served to heighten British Columbians' awareness and appreciation of our trails. We need more trail infrastructure. For this reason, the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

BCRPA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to building and sustaining active, healthy lifestyles and communities in BC. Established in 1958, the Association is a central resource agency for members and stakeholders of the municipal parks and recreation sector, providing leadership, training and support. Through a diverse network of partners and extensive programs and services, BCRPA actively advocates accessibility and inclusiveness to recreation. We have over 4000 members representing 98% of all local governments in the province stewarding over 500 recreational facilities and thousands of kilometres of outdoor spaces.

The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province. We will work with the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC to ensure the success of the objectives of the funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Tunnacliffe", is positioned above the printed name.

Rebecca Tunnacliffe
Chief Executive Officer

BEAVER CANOE CLUB

PO Box 21729 -1424 Commercial Drive, Vancouver B.C.
V5L 5G3, email. president@beavercanooclub.org
Tel. 778-871-4873



April 8, 2022

Re: B.C. Trail Fund

The Beaver Canoe Club supports the Outdoor Recreational Council request for funding for B.C. Trail Fund which is long overdue in our view

We are the largest canoe club in British Columbia and a member of the RCABC wishes to enthusiastically express support for the Outdoor Recreational Council proposal to properly endow the B.C. Trail fund.

Recently the Provincial Government announce that in 2022 an additional 100,000 residents will be coming to British Columbia and that number is projected to continue for decades; yet there has been scant attention paid to the state of trails and outdoor recreation in B.C. to deal with the growing population who want to get into the outdoors.

The many benefits of outdoor recreation are well known, yet the existing trail system, access, and facilities budgets have not kept up with the demands nor opportunities. Access must be improved trails maintained and facilities regulated and kept clean.

Our province desperately needs the proper funding trail fund and we fully support the Outdoor Recreational Council leadership and their proposal for sustainable funding and expanding our opportunities in one of the world's great wilderness areas.

Yours sincerely

Phil Rankin President.



March 14, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Columbia Valley Greenways Trail Alliance is a trails advocacy group made up of six local trail and stewardship groups including, Toby Creek Nordic Ski Club, Panorama Mountain Resort, Stablestone Equine Leadership, the Columbia Valley Cycling Society and Nipika Mountain Resort and the Windermere Valley Dirt Riders.

Greenways promotes and constructs sustainable trail systems that contribute to vibrant healthy communities within our region. We are comprised of community organizations working in partnership to advocate the development, maintenance, and responsible use of sustainable trails on public and private lands to promote year-round healthy living, community values and connections.

Our organization is responsible for recreational assets within our communities. An ongoing challenge for us is finding funding to maintain our trails once construction is completed. Funding for trail maintenance is crucial in supporting those who look after trails and recreational assets in BC. It is needed by the many businesses, organizations and advocacy groups who seek to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities, and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies. Without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding, and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there is a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

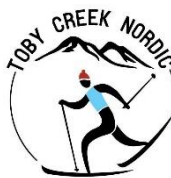
We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition for the potential value that this would bring to organizations such as ours, the outdoor recreation community, economic and destination development, and to the province.

If you require more information about the Columbia Valley Greenways Trail Alliance, please contact us via phone or email.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lianne Lang".

Lianne Lang
Project Manager
Columbia Valley Greenways Trail Alliance





Community Recreational Initiatives Society

(250) 979-3941 | admin@adaptiveadventures.ca | crisadaptive.ca

835 Bay Avenue, Kelowna, BC, V1Y 7K2

**BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION & SPORT
FOR PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES**

March 14, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

Community Recreational Initiatives Society is a non-profit organization founded in 2001 focused on providing inclusive, accessible, and adaptive outdoor recreation for people living with disabilities. We predominantly operate in the Okanagan region, but do access parks and trails across BC annually. In 2021 we supported 750 individuals accessing the outdoors and spent over 5000 hours outside with clients and volunteers hiking, cycling, paddling and more.

We are fully in support of the proposed endowment fund because, as we have all noticed over the past two years, access to the outdoors is vitally important for people's mental and physical well-being. As more people seek to access the outdoors trail conditions are deteriorating, there is overcrowding in parks, and environmental damage occurring. Without dedicated funding, this will continue to occur and creates even more barriers to access for individuals living with disabilities, who we at CRIS work with. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there is a long-term plan for caring for and improving these valuable assets ensuring access to the outdoors for people of all abilities.

The value in which this fund will offer will have lasting impacts on the outdoor recreation community and help ensure that our trails can continue to provide the known benefits to BC residents and tourists alike.

If you require more information about Community Recreational Initiatives Society, please contact us via phone at 250-979-3941 or email admin@adaptiveadventures.ca.

Sincerely,

Danielle Hennig

Executive Director - Community Recreational Initiatives Society



Destination
CASTLEGAR
THE HEART OF THE KOOTENAYS

Date Mar 23, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

Destination Castlegar's vision is to responsibly host visitors, educate our guests, and entice return to Castlegar using memorable experiences. Destination Castlegar aims to showcase Castlegar/Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) Areas I and J as a four-season, outdoor family-friendly, and affordable destination that supports community involvement and local businesses, while also influencing the economic growth and development of the area.

Destination Castlegar's mission is to increase visitation in the shoulder season and winter months. Our aim is to support stakeholders in providing quality services, hosting memorable events, and inviting new recurring attractions by:

Working collaboratively – Working locally, regionally and provincially to increase our visitation and strengthen our stakeholders' engagement.

We are a tourism sector that works closely with our not for profit recreational clubs such as the Friends of Trails Association.

Community and regional not for profit trail organizations are leading the industry. It is crucial to secure funding to have a full time administrator that focuses on the goals, writes the grants, facilitates maintenance and creation of new trails when possible.

These funds are needed by every trail and recreation association in BC. Even businesses are advocating the growth of the outdoor recreation economy that helps support the long term funding for the ongoing upkeep and stewardship that is required to maintain healthy trails.

The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there are dedicated funds to encourage planning, administration and caring for these valuable outdoor assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ryman".

Sincerely,

Andrea Ryman
Marketing Director
Destination Castlegar
destination@castlegar.com
250-608-1579



Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Accessing the backcountry one step at a time

236 Superior Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1T3

fmcdbc@mountainclubs.org

www.mountainclubs.org

March 23, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC) is a province-wide organization of 45 outdoor clubs engaged in non-motorized backcountry recreation, such as hiking, climbing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running. We engage with outdoor recreation organizations, Indigenous Peoples, government agencies, and commercial operators to protect and maintain access for quality non-motorized recreation in BC's mountains and wilderness.

The FMCBC supports the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's (ORCBC) proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the establishment of the BC Trail Fund. The FMCBC has been dedicated to trail building and maintenance projects as one of our main objectives since our formation in 1973. In 2019, member clubs spent over 14,900 volunteer hours on BC's trails: constructing over 76 km of trails, maintaining about 800 km of trails and installing over 2000 trail markers.

Funding for trail projects has always been an issue and with increasing number of people engaging in outdoor activities, volunteers can no longer handle the upkeep on all the trails without support. We need a dedicated funding source as proposed by ORCBC.

A dedicated BC Trail Fund is needed to support development and maintenance of trails, access to trails and outdoor recreation infrastructure in BC. It is needed by volunteers, communities and organizations, which are seeking to grow BC's outdoor recreation opportunities and amenities. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving communities and regional economies. Without long-term and dedicated funding, loss of access to trailheads, deterioration of trails, overcrowding and associated environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund would help ensure long-term planning and sustainability for these valuable assets and support those caring for them.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism sector and the Province as a whole.

If you need more information about the FMCBC's work on trails and the types of projects that we have identified for work please contact Jay MacArthur, FMCBC Trails Committee Chair at Jay.MacArthur@mountainclubs.org or 604-209-2646.

Sincerely,

Liz Bicknell
President



April 20, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Fernie Trails Alliance (FTA) maintains over 300km of trails in the Fernie area. Our vision is to establish a fun, robust and diverse world class trail experience that will endure for generations and our mission is to develop, maintain and enhance a human powered trail network in the Fernie Area. We coordinate with other clubs in the area, with our main remit being to build, maintain and enhance the trails, and coordinate with key landholders to ensure continued access to trails.

This fund is needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities, and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. Our organization has benefitted from grants in 2021 and 2022 toward the maintenance of trails, but generally, grants tend to focus on building new trails. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about the Fernie Trails Alliance, please feel free to contact me directly at 250.278.9569, or executivedirector@fernietrailsalliance.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Penke", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Todd Penke
Executive Director
Fernie Trails Alliance



**FRASER VALLEY
CLIMBING SOCIETY**

April 7, 2022

To the elected officials and staff of the Province of BC,

Re: Letter of Support for the BC Trail Fund

The Fraser Valley Climbing Society is writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

Established in 2020, the Fraser Valley Climbing Society is a non-profit organization under the umbrella of the Climber's Access Society of BC. We protect and assist in managing rock climbing areas in the Fraser Valley, and we currently have almost 100 members.

Trails are the Province of BC's most valuable and important recreation and tourism asset. Despite this, most trail development and maintenance are done by non-profit organizations and volunteers. Governments fund ice rinks, curling clubs and park infrastructure but do very little to support trails; however, trails are another form of recreation infrastructure, primarily on provincially-managed land. The maintenance and development of trails are much cheaper than other forms of recreation infrastructure; in addition, trails are low-barrier and used by a much broader demographic than many traditional recreation facilities. Without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

Trails bring significant economic, health and tourism benefits, and it is the Province's responsibility to ensure trails are developed and maintained sustainably. We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism and the Province.

Please go to fvclimbingsociety.com for more information about the Fraser Valley Climbing Society.

Sincerely,

Meghan Jackson

Fraser Valley Climbing Society

info@fvclimbingsociety.com



Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association
PO Box 603
Abbotsford Station A
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z8

April 5, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

This letter is in support of the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association (FVMBA) is a registered non-profit organization dedicated to the sustainable care of recreational trails within the Fraser Valley. The FVMBA actively stewards over 600 km of multi-use recreational trails in multiple networks throughout the communities of the Fraser Valley, providing safe, enjoyable experiences for all trail users, including mountain bikers, hikers, trail runners, dog walkers, equestrians, and nature enthusiasts. With a membership base of over 1000, the FVMBA has been caring for the trails for 18 years.

Trails and outdoor recreational areas throughout BC allow residents and visitors to experience nature, enjoy beautiful views, challenge their fitness, build outdoor skills, and create community. All who enjoy the outdoors benefit from the trail work conducted by advocacy organizations such as the FVMBA that keep these trails and areas safe and fun. Outdoor recreational pursuits have increased dramatically with the pandemic as individuals and families seek outdoor recreational activities.

The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities, and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies. Without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding, and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets. This fund is needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC. It's needed by the many businesses and advocates who seek to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about the FVMBA, please contact us at info@fvmba.com

Sincerely,

Mike Woods
President
Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association

— FRIENDS OF —
GARIBALDI PARK

April 10, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Friends of Garibaldi Park Society (FOGPS) works to preserve and protect Garibaldi Provincial Park, ensuring the park environment is preserved for present and future generations to enjoy through advocacy and trail maintenance.

We support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal as more money is sorely needed to maintain and develop trails both within Garibaldi Provincial Park and throughout BC. In Garibaldi Provincial Park specifically, a surge in visits over recent years (only heightened during the pandemic) has led to overcrowding, which in turn, leads to deteriorating trail conditions and environmental damage.

There are an extremely limited number of access points to Garibaldi, and the increase in visitor numbers has led to parking issues at these access points. In part in an effort to solve these issues, BC Parks introduced its day-use pass system. However, we believe that a better way to alleviate crowding in the park (and the issues it creates) would be to disperse users to different areas by investing in trails.

This fund is needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC. And it's needed by the many businesses and advocates who're seeking to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies but haven't benefited from the COVID recovery grants. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about the Friends of Garibaldi Park, please contact us via hello@friendsofgaribaldipark.org.

Sincerely,

Taryn Eyton
President
Friends of Garibaldi Park Society

Tom Ireland
Advocacy Committee Chair
Friends of Garibaldi Park Society



Gabriola Land & Trails Trust

PO Box 56
Gabriola, BC V0R 1X0
www.galtt.ca

March 11, 2022

To Whom It May Concern

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (GaLTT) is a volunteer-based, non-profit organization focused on protecting and restoring natural ecosystems on Gabriola and nearby islands and providing opportunities for people to explore and connect with the natural world. We develop and maintain a large network of interconnected trails that provide routes to connect and explore island neighbourhoods, parks, shore accesses, and services.

Recreational trails are an invaluable public resource. We firmly believe support for responsible environmental stewardship is enhanced when people are provided opportunities to explore and learn about the natural world. However, building and maintaining trails is expensive, especially when built to the standards necessary to protect surrounding natural habitat, provide barrier free access, and to ensure public safety.

The development and maintenance of trail infrastructure relies heavily on the grassroots support of community-based organizations such as GaLTT. Our volunteers do wonderful work, but we have limited financial resources and we have difficulty accessing funding to support important trail maintenance and improvement projects.

We are excited about the creation of a professionally managed, endowed BC Trail Fund that will provide a source of secure, long-term funding to develop and maintain the province's invaluable trail assets. This much needed new funding mechanism will be of huge benefit to trail organizations, trail users, the communities that host them, and to the province as a whole.

Sincerely,

Robert Brockley
President, Gabriola Land and Trails Trust
www.galtt.ca



Golden Cycling Club
P.O. Box 1171,
Golden, BC
V0A 1H0
contact@goldencyclingclub.com

March 24, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Golden Cycling Club consists of over 800 passionate members from Golden, BC and area. The trails we manage and maintain provide a multitude of benefits for the region, providing a draw to visitors and related economic benefits of tourism, as well as health benefits to residents.

This fund is needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC. And it's needed by the many businesses and advocates who are seeking to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities, and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies but have not benefitted from the COVID recovery grants. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there is a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests, and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about the Golden Cycling Club, please contact us via contact@goldencyclingclub.com

Sincerely,

Glenna Jefferies
President, Golden Cycling Club
glenna.jefferies@gmail.com

Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning
Box 115
Hope, BC
V0X 1L0

March 16, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

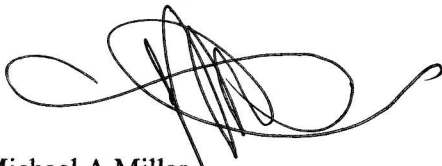
Hope Mountain Centre is an environmental education non-profit that seeks to connect people to the outdoors, educate them about the natural history of our province, and protect our natural environment. We offer a series of low cost environmental education programs for adults and families, a series of programs provided to our local elementary school population, a trail maintenance and building program, and other environmental monitoring programs. See www.hopemountain.org for more information

This fund is needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC. And it's needed by the many businesses and advocates who're seeking to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies but haven't benefited from the COVID recovery grants. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about Hope Mountain Centre, please contact me at info@hopemountain.ca or 604-869-9757.

Sincerely,



Michael A Millar
Treasurer, Hope Mountain Centre.

March 28, 2022

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

Horse Council BC is a 23,000 plus member service organization; our mission is to work together on behalf of the equine interests of our members. We collaborate with individuals, other equine associations, businesses, industry professionals, and government to strengthen communication, education, and safety related to horses. We strive to preserve and enhance equestrian use of public lands and historic trails, and to promote and foster participation in all varieties of equine activity. All Horse Council BC members have \$5 million of third-party liability insurance relating to their horses.

This fund is needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC. And it's needed by the many businesses and advocates who're seeking to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies but haven't benefitted from the COVID recovery grants. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about Horse Council BC, please contact us via phone at 604-856-4304 ext. 1009 or by email recreation@hcbc.ca.

Sincerely,



Sarah Allison
Recreation Coordinator
Horse Council BC

27336 Fraser Hwy, Aldergrove, BC V4W 3N5 Tel: 604 856 4304 Toll Free: 1 800 345 8055 Fax: 604 856 4302



Independent Cycles
8 - 33039 1st Ave
Mission, BC, V2V 1G2
778.860.0040
rocky@indycycleshop.ca

14 MARCH 2022

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund. We are a small business, in Downtown Mission, BC. Our main mode of business: Mountain Bikes. We don't write you to sell more mountain bikes. They are selling themselves these days.

We write you to help recognize the benefits that people are getting from getting outside and recreating. We see the explosive growth in outdoor recreation of all forms - mountain biking being the one we see the most. And we see nothing but benefits from more people doing it. It leads to:

- Better connection with the outdoors
- Better health
- Introduction to a cycling lifestyle - which could lead to more car trips done by bike
- Reduction in reliance on gas for fun

However, the trail infrastructure on which our sport depends is woefully underfunded today. The non-profits that do the work (of which I am a member and volunteer) do a great job with what they have. However, if we as a society put the resources into trail construction and maintenance that we apply to say - ice arenas - the net benefit is 100x or more over that more costly endeavour.

ORC is asking for \$10m for trails. That is ½ of one new hockey arena. For the entire province. And it would make a HUGE difference. And yes, then we'd sell more bikes and employ more local people and do more good things in our community. But we see this as a way for you to invest in your citizens, for pennies compared to other similar investments. It is simply put, just a good, healthy and holistic business move.

Move is yours.

Sincerely,

Rocky Blondin
Owner & Operator
Independent Cycles
Trail Rep
Fraser Valley Mountain Bike Assoc.

May 30th, 2022

Outdoor Recreation Council of BC

Re: BC Trail Fund – Letter of Support

Indigenous Tourism BC is pleased to provide this letter in support for Outdoor Recreation Council of BC proposal to develop the BC Trail Fund that will provide reliable and consistent access to grants for eligible non-profit organizations, First Nations and local governments that are involved in delivering continued stewardship and maintenance of trails; it leverages funds from different sources and provides an efficient and effective way for corporations, organizations and individuals to support outdoor recreation in BC financially.

Indigenous Tourism BC is a non-profit, Stakeholder-based organization that is committed to growing and promoting a sustainable, culturally rich Indigenous tourism industry. A sustainable Indigenous tourism sector with products in communities in every region of the province is recognized as one of the major focuses for achieving an economically and culturally diverse tourism industry. The development, maintenance and stewardship of trails are valuable to the continuing efforts that ITBC is making to grow and promote a sustainable, culturally rich indigenous tourism industry

Indigenous Tourism BC supports the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC to seek funding to develop the BC Trail Fund.

Sincerely,



Henry Tso
Chief Financial Officer



February 23, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Kootenay Outdoor Recreation Society, operating as KORE, is a Kimberley, BC based Non-profit society with a mandate to organize and grow a thriving industry cluster of outdoor rec-tech manufacturers and product designers throughout the Kootenay region of British Columbia. There are over fifty (50) businesses within the KORE alliance making and designing products such as skis, backpacks, tents, and headlamps.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand for outdoor gear has grown exponentially, with many new and infrequent outdoor recreationalists now getting outside. The ability to recreate in the outdoors and to enjoy the amazing craft gear made here in the Kootenays, can only continue with the preservation and upkeep of wild spaces and trails. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province.

If you require more information about the KORE initiative, please contact us at info@koreoutdoors.org.

Sincerely,



Matt Mosteller
Chair, Board of Directors
Kootenay Outdoor Recreation Society (KORE)



1905 Warren Avenue
Kimberley, British Columbia
V1A 1S2 Canada
Kathy@KootenayRockies.com
KootenayRockies.com

April 4, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

On behalf of Kootenay Rockies Tourism Association Board of Directors, I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

Kootenay Rockies Tourism is a non-profit society established in 1978 and one of five official regional destination management organizations in BC and one of our strategic pillars is sustainable destination tourism development, to further support and advance the growth of sustainable tourism within our regional boundaries. We are an organization representing over 800 tourism businesses and stakeholders operating in the southeast part of British Columbia.

We believe this fund is needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC. And it's needed by the many businesses and advocates who're seeking to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies but haven't benefitted from the COVID recovery grants. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about Kootenay Rockies Tourism Association please feel free to contact me by email or visit our corporate website at: www.KRTourism.ca.

Sincerely,

Kathy Cooper, CEO
Kootenay Rockies Tourism Association
Email: Kathy@KootenayRockies.com



March 22, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Lillooet Naturalist Society is dedicated to "knowing nature and keeping it worth knowing". To that end, we have produced a Lillooet hiking guide, highlighting over 30 trails in our region. These trails are an important component in helping achieve our mandate, as well as offering health benefits for trail users. Our group is open to everyone and has over 60 members.

This fund is needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC. It's also needed by the many businesses and advocates who're seeking to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies but haven't benefitted from the COVID recovery grants. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province.

If you require more information about the Lillooet Naturalist Society, please contact us at lillooetns@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Playfair", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Geoff Playfair, president, Lillooet Naturalist Society
Box 1065, Lillooet BC, V0K 1V0 www.lillooetnaturalistsociety.org



Meadowbrook Community Association
7839 Clarricoates Road
Kimberley, BC V1A 3L5

March 16, 2022

To Whom It May Concern.

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

At its regular meeting last night, the Board of the Meadowbrook Community Association (MCA) instructed me to submit this letter of support for the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The MCA is an incorporated society of 100+ members whose Constitutional Purpose is "To preserve and enhance the Meadowbrook and Woods Corner areas for residents and other recreational users". The two areas mentioned are rural areas directly east of the City of Kimberley.

In its 10-year history, the MCA has raised sufficient funds to purchase a 420+ acre mining claim, to have the claim removed permanently from the mineral tenure system of BC, and to have it replaced by a 40-acre regional park that includes Cherry Creek Falls, and a 380+ acre recreation reserve. The area is now an attraction for residents and visitors.

The MCA's efforts have also resulted in the area surrounding McGinty Lake being designated as an Interpretive Forest, the entire area being refenced, and a picnic area being developed with a washroom, tables, benches and a fire pit. The MCA maintains trails in that area under a Recreation Sites and Trail Agreement with the Province. We are currently identifying trails in the aforementioned 380+ acres that we wish to incorporate into that agreement.

Like many non-profit groups, the MCA has found it challenging to acquire the funds needed to develop and maintain the trails networks. The BC Trail Fund is needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC and by the many businesses and advocates who are seeking to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy.

The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies but haven't benefitted from the COVID recovery grants. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there is a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

The MCA is looking forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole. Locally it would offer an opportunity for the MCA to garner the funds necessary to enable the efforts of our dedicated volunteers.

If you require more information about the MCA and our efforts in trails development and maintenance, please contact me by mail at the above address or by phone or email as listed below. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Robert S. (Bob) Johnstone
President
250-427-3277 bob@johnstoneassociates.com

cc Doug Clovechok, MLA, Kootenay Columbia
 Jane Walter, Director, RDEK Electoral Area E
 Carolyn Grant, Kimberley Bulletin
 Ian Cobb, Editor, E-Know



April 13, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

Norco Bicycles was started in 1964 and has played a major role in developing and supporting trail initiatives since day one.

BC's outdoor recreational areas and trails have seen a massive surge in users over the last few years, this fund is needed to maintain those user numbers while continuing to give these areas the proper maintenance and care they need to be sustainable. This funding will massively help all of the people who work tirelessly to make these outdoor spaces a place for us to all learn, grow and enjoy.

We're excited to see the BC Trail Fund materialize and help continue the growth of sustainable outdoor recreation across BC.

If you require more information about Norco Bicycles, please contact us at mitchk@livetoplaysports.com

Sincerely,

Mitch Kaiser
Sports Marketing Specialist
Norco Bicycles

Mitch Kaiser

NORCO

Patagonia Vancouver

1994 4th Ave W, Vancouver, BC

3/24/2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

Patagonia Vancouver is located in the Kitsilano neighborhood and is a corporately owned brick and mortar store of the Ventura, California based company. Our statement of purpose is 'We're in Business to Save our Home Planet'. The protection and stewardship of wild places is engrained in how we do business and the organizations that we support.

This fund is needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC, as well as many businesses and advocates who are seeking to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities, and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies and the protection of wild places. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there is a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about Patagonia Vancouver, please contact us via email at zac.elik@patagonia.com.

Sincerely,

Zac Elik

Store Manager

Patagonia Vancouver



Powell River Parks & Wilderness Society

sunshinecoasttrail.info@gmail.com

PO Box 345

Powell River, BC

V8A 5C2

April, 6th, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Sunshine Coast Trail is a 180-km backcountry hiking experience that stretches from Sarah Point in Desolation Sound to Saltery Bay. In 1992 a small group of people founded the Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society (PAWS) and started building hiking trails that linked the remaining stands of old growth forests in the region's front country.

The Sunshine Coast Trail traverses a wide variety of landscapes, from coastal shorelines, along creeks and lakes, through old growth forests to panoramic mountaintops. We have several dozen members, and several thousand visitors to hike the SCT each year.

The purposes of the society are:

-to establish accessible parks and wilderness areas in the Powell River district, with linking corridors where possible;

- to protect old growth in a variety of settings;
- to promote recreation and tourism in these areas through publicity and education;
- to work through appropriate agencies;
- to encourage public participation in the establishment, development, and maintenance of protected areas;
- to promote social comradeship through a common interest in outdoor activities;
- to stimulate and further interest in activities such as hiking, canoeing, walking and the observation and study of the natural environment; and to help protect our natural heritage for this and future generations.

This fund is needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC. And it's needed by the many businesses and advocates who're seeking to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies but haven't benefited from the COVID recovery grants. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about the Powell River Parks & Wilderness Society, please contact us via <https://sunshinecoast-trail.com/contact/>, or sunshinecoasttrail.info@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Jesse Newman
President
Powell River Parks & Wilderness Society
sunshinecoasttrail.info@gmail.com

1755 East 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V5N 1S1

March 20, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

We are writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Recreational Canoeing Association is a Provincial association established in 1978, who's mandate is to promote safe canoeing in British Columbia. Our membership of close to 400 include Paddling Clubs, Instructors, Guides, and Paddlers in B.C.

This fund is needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC. And it's needed by the many businesses and advocates who're seeking to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies but haven't benefitted from the COVID recovery grants. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

Members of the RCABC are so grateful to our Recreational sites for allowing us access to the amazing rivers and waterways our Province has to offer. We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about the Recreational Canoeing Association of British Columbia please contact us via president@bccanoe.com or visit our website at: www.bccanoe.com

Sincerely,

Vanessa Elton
Vice-President
Recreational Canoeing Association of British Columbia





March 15, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Regional District of East Kootenay is a partnership of municipalities and electoral areas who work together within the region to provide services and amenities. The RDEK offers over 100 different services that range from very small service areas to much larger services for the entire region. Some of those services include land use planning, water supply, sewage disposal, fire protection recreation amenities, mosquito control, recycling, community parks and emergency management planning.

This fund is needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC. It is also needed by the many businesses and advocates who are seeking to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies but haven't benefitted from the COVID recovery grants. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

The Regional District of East Kootenay looks forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about the Regional District of East Kootenay, please contact us via email; info@rdek.bc.ca

Sincerely,

Colin Peet
CV Recreation Services Superintendent
Regional District of East Kootenay



April 13, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing in support of the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for an endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

We, the Saulteau First Nations, are a spirited and diverse community. We are a strong Self-Governed Nation, one that is healthy, culturally vibrant, and ready for tomorrow. Our cultural teachings and traditions guide us and keep us rooted as we move forward into the future.

As stewards of the land, we ensure that the best sustainable practices are followed, now and in the future. For as long as the 'sun shines, the grass grows and the rivers flow'. We remain proud and humbly determined.

We support the proposal for a BC Trails Fund because we believe more attention should be given to the continued stewardship of trails, outdoor places and cultural values. We also see the fund as a collaborative effort to foster Indigenous support, involvement and respect for Indigenous principles. Furthermore, we see the benefit of the promotion of physical & mental health awareness.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, Indigenous communities and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about the Saulteau First Nations, please contact us via <https://www.saulteau.com/>

Sincerely,

Justin Napoleon
Chief
Saulteau First Nations

Proudly determined

Box 1020 Chetwynd, BC V0C1J0 T 250.788.3955 F 250.788.7261 info@saulteau.com www.saulteau.com

The Shuswap TRAIL ALLIANCE

The Shuswap Trail Alliance
PO Box 1531, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4P6
Phone: 250-832-0102
Email: info@shuswaptrails.com
www.shuswaptrailalliance.com

February 23, 2022

Re: BC Trail Fund – Shuswap trail Alliance Letter of Support

To Whom it May Concern,

The Shuswap Trail Alliance is pleased to offer this letter in support of the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA) is the organizational body (formed in 2005) through which local and regional leadership work together to develop and implement the Shuswap Trails Strategy as First Nations, stewardship, government, industry, business, and community stewardship organizations and individuals. The purpose of the STA is to develop, operate, maintain, and promote a network of non-motorized trails throughout the Shuswap watershed region in the Province of British Columbia.

The pandemic has proven how critical outdoor recreations is, but the continued growing interest in the usage of outdoor recreation amenities has elevated the pressure on trails in the province. The maintenance and upkeep of trails is often the responsibility of volunteer recreation groups, and finding funding to maintain trails is extremely difficult, if not impossible.

The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies but haven't benefitted from the COVID recovery grants. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

Please contact me if I can provide further information in support of this important fund.

Sincerely,



Jen Bellhouse
Executive Director
for the Shuswap Trail Alliance
Phone: 250-804-3530 /email: jen@shuswaptrails.com



April 14th, 2022

Daniel Cammiade, Executive Director
Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society (NTS)
269 Glenairlie Drive, Victoria, BC V9B 1K5

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Outdoor Recreation Council BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

On behalf of the Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society, I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

Established in 2015, the Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to champion, build, and connect safe, enjoyable, and sustainable nature trails, by collaborating and working closely with diverse partners. Its vision is a world-renowned network of multi-use trails with abundant access, that inspires people to engage with the natural world and respect the environment. We have over 50 members and have been involved with building or maintaining 19 trails at approximately 16 kms.

NTS specializes in sustainable trail building practices, using the provincially accepted International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) guidelines and the Whistler Trail Standards. It focuses on trails that promote amicable user interactions, exceptional nature experiences and environmental sustainability. We build trails to withstand the impact of many users in adverse weather and through all seasons.

We support this fund to not only increase the support to build and maintain sustainable trails, but also to leverage the ability of organizations like NTS who work with multiple stakeholders and benefit from volunteer labour to perform vital trail work.

A good example of this is our Coastal Connector Project (figure 1) which would link various existing natural-surface trails to develop a continuous nature trail across the Saanich Peninsula. This project involves the Capital Regional District, BC Parks, 6 First Nations, 3 municipalities and multiple private landowners. This sea-to-sea trail concept is approximately 18-20 km long and could become a valued recreational and active transportation greenway.

It's trail organizations like NTS who work on these multi-jurisdictional projects that could benefit from and leverage support from a BC Trail fund.

The Outdoor Recreation Council and the Vancouver Foundation are both respected organizations and we support this concept for the benefit of all British Columbians.

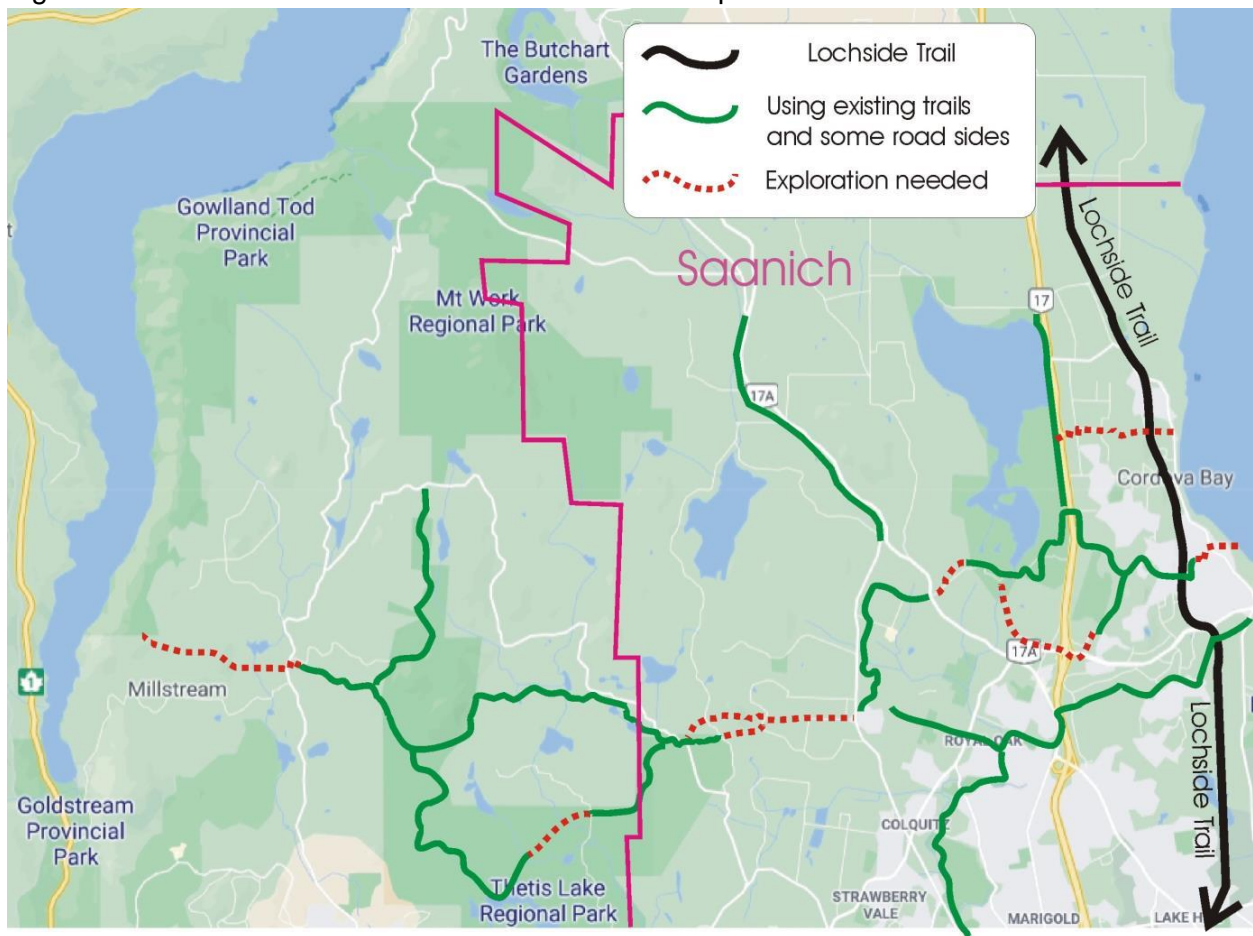
If you require more information about the Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Daniel Cammiade, Executive Director,
Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society
Phone (250) 580-1901
Email: Daniel.cammiade@gmail.com

Figure 1 – Coastal Connector Trail Vision and Route Options





March 30, 2022

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Squamish Off-Road Cycling Association (SORCA) was established in 1992. We are a volunteer driven trail advocacy group with more than 2600 members who voluntarily sign up every year in support of our trails. Annually SORCA enlists more than 100 businesses to contribute to the well being of the Squamish's trails, both through weekly events that drive our membership, and through financial partnerships and donations.

Trail counters in the Sea-to-Sky area measured a staggering 150 percent increase in traffic between 2019 and 2020. Trail use in Squamish continues to grow exponentially, with 2021 trail counts measuring over 50,000 uses for some trails over just an 8 month period. In addition to increased visitation, Squamish is experiencing an influx of new residents attracted to the natural beauty, unique lifestyle, and opportunities for outdoor recreation. Despite this, there remains a glaring lack of basic facilities and support for outdoor recreation in many places. This fund is needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to rural economies like ours. To keep communities like ours thriving, which rely on outdoor recreation as an economic driver, ongoing and dedicated funding to support maintenance of existing recreational trail networks and infrastructure is needed. Without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur and negatively impact our communities health and economy.

The lack of existing investments in BC's trail and recreation assets has already resulted in negative social, economic and environmental impacts in our region. Despite SORCA's best efforts to fundraise and support these assets, the lack of dedicated and ongoing funding has led to substantial delays in advancing key initiatives that will better our community, provide economic benefits to the region, and help to better manage the exponential growth of outdoor recreation in the Sea to Sky region. The BC Trail Fund would provide for much needed investments in BC's trail and recreation assets. We look forward to seeing the fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about SORCA, please contact us via info@sorca.ca.

Sincerely,

Brennan Williams
Director of Advocacy and Government Relations
Squamish Off-Road Cycling Association



THOMPSON OKANAGAN
TOURISM ASSOCIATION

2280-D Leckie Road
Kelowna, British Columbia
V1X 6G6
totabc.org

February 15, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing in support of the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for an endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA) is a Regional Destination Management Organization supported by Destination BC. Our role is to provide stakeholder and community support regarding tourism development and marketing. Our organization supports a regional industry with over 3500 stakeholders.

TOTA fully supports the creation of a trail fund. This fund is very much needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities, and outdoor spaces has not aligned with the recent surge of users on these systems, particularly in response to the Covid pandemic. Without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

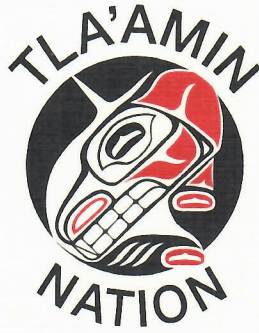
We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province.

If you require more information about the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association, please contact us via Mike Overend, mike@totabc.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Overend', written in a cursive style.

Mike Overend
Director of Destination Development & Sustainability
Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association



April 14, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: BC Trail Fund – Letter of Support

I am writing in support of the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for an endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

Tla'amin Nation are a strong Self-Governing Nation, located on the Sunshine Coast, along the Salish Sea. Our cultural teachings (our taow) and traditions guide us in how to be good stewards of the land.

As stewards of the land, are happy to work with others to ensure that the best sustainable practices are followed, now and in the future.

We support the proposal for a BC Trails Fund because we believe more attention should be given to the continued stewardship of trails, outdoor places and cultural values. We also see the fund as a collaborative effort to foster Indigenous support, involvement and respect for Indigenous principles. Furthermore, we see the benefit of the promotion of physical & mental health awareness.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, Indigenous communities and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about the Tla'amin Nation, please contact us via our website: www.tlaaminnation.com

Sincerely,

Denise Smith
A/Director of Lands and
Natural Resources



July 22, 2022

RE: TIABC SUPPORT FOR THE NEW BC TRAIL FUND

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Tourism Industry Association of British Columbia, I am writing in support of the Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia's proposal to establish an endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Tourism Industry Association of BC (TIABC) is a province-wide advocacy organization that represents the interests of more than 19,000 businesses and 350,000 people working in the tourism and hospitality sector. Tourism is an integral part of BC's character and economy. It is interwoven throughout the fabric of the province, supporting families and anchoring the culture of communities.

As you are aware, the Super, Natural BC brand is built on the incredible landscapes and waterways throughout our province. Each year, countless residents and visitors alike enjoy outdoor adventure and recreation at any one of the thousands of lakes, rivers, mountains, parks, and trails that span all regions of BC. Unfortunately, some of our natural attributes run the risk of damage due to overuse and recklessness unless we take steps to protect the environment...in this case the extensive trail system on crown land that has seen an exponential increase in usage, particularly during the pandemic.

The BC Trail Fund is very much needed by everyone who looks after trails and recreation assets in BC given that the upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities, and outdoor spaces have not benefitted from the COVID-19 recovery grants. Consequently, without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding, and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there is a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We strongly urge government to consider a grant to establish the BC Trail Fund in the interest of protecting, maintaining, and sustaining the many trails enjoyed by residents and visitors throughout British Columbia today and in the years to come.

If you have any questions about TIABC's support for this initiative, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Best Regards,

Walt Judas
CEO, TIABC
Em - wjudas@tiabc.ca T - 778-953-0620



TORCA

Tri-cities Off Road Cycling Association

April 7, 2022

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Tri-Cities Off Road Cycling Association (TORCA) has been a volunteer-run, non-profit society since November 2013 and as of April 2016, a Canadian registered charity. TORCA's mission is to provide public recreational amenities by planning, designing, constructing and maintaining trails in the tri-cities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody & villages of Belcarra & Anmore. TORCA advocates for all trail users, including mountain bikers, trail runners, hikers, and dog walkers. The 2021 membership reached a record 674, and is already at over 390 in 2022. Beyond the membership, the creation of safe trails opens outdoor spaces to the ~234,300 tri-cities residents, plus the many visitors to the region.

We support ORCBC's proposal, because the fund is needed by the numerous non-profit, largely volunteer-run, associations in BC who do tremendous work to care for the trails and the users. The pandemic has brought a surge in trail users that is here to stay. Our data shows that on popular routes in the Tri-Cities, trail usage has increased by up to 600%. To maintain the trails in a safe condition for the users, in a sustainable condition for the environment, and to provide adequate recreational opportunities for different skill levels, we have had to rely more on paid trail builders and purchase more tools and signage. At the same time, COVID recovery grants are disappearing, which makes it harder to find funding to maintain the same level of work on the trails. We also appreciate the effort ORCBC puts into involving Indigenous communities and fostering diverse and inclusive participation. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province as a whole.

If you require more information about TORCA, please contact us info@torca.ca.

Sincerely,

Tomke Augustin
Director, Grants and Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Justice
Tri-Cities Off Road Cycling Association

May 26, 2022

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Room 112, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Heyman:

Re: BC Trail Fund Proposal

At the May quarterly meeting of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Executive, members of the Community Economic Development received a delegation from the Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC) on its proposal for the establishment of a BC Trail Fund.

UBCM wishes to provide this letter of support for the ORC proposal. It specifically asks the Province to make a one-time contribution of \$10 million as part of a new endowment fund that would provide financial support to community-based recreation organizations, First Nations and local governments that deliver ongoing stewardship to BC's extensive network of recreational trails and facilities.

This financial support is much needed recognizing that throughout the pandemic, trails, parks and outdoor recreation, generally, have seen a huge increase in usage. This increase has put a strain on existing recreation opportunities resulting in over used and undermaintained trails that are in need of a financial support. As the association representing the interests of all local governments and eight member First Nations, we can advise that our membership has endorsed motions requesting the Province to allocate more funding to park and trail development and maintenance.

On behalf of the UBCM membership, please consider this letter as our indication of support for the BC Trail Fund Proposal by the Outdoor Recreation Council.

Sincerely,



Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg
UBCM President



Mayor Ange Qualizza, Chair
Community Economic
Development Committee, UBCM

cc: Kelly Greene, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment



The United Riders of Cumberland
PO Box 960
Cumberland
BC
V0R 1S0

March 15th, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The United Riders of Cumberland is a registered non-profit society that advocates for mountain biking through: building and maintaining over 200km's of sanctioned mountain bike / multi use trails; hosting mountain bike and running events; encouraging mountain biking in youth; facilitating group rides; encouraging the positive spirit of mountain biking and trail use in the community; and, fostering positive working relationships with private landowners while working with other community groups, agencies, societies and organization's sharing similar purposes.

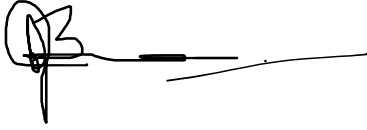
We ended 2021 with 2087 registered members and we serve the mid-Vancouver Island population as our catchment area and play a large part in provincial and international mountain biking and trail user tourism. Our membership is made up of all kind of trail user from dog walkers, hikers, adaptive, trail runners and mountain biking. We have had a land access agreement with the landowners since 2015 which makes up part of the municipal parklands and watershed land for the Village of Cumberland. We have a full time trail crew in operations and maintain and sustain a wide variety of skillsets in our teams.

One of our challenges is always sourcing funding to sustain our recreation assets. The proposed fund will help solidify the position of our operations and seek to sustain businesses and advocates that thrive on work to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving rural economies but haven't benefitted from grants. However, without ongoing and dedicated funding and the increasing volume of outdoor users impacting trail conditions, environmental damage could occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province.

If you require more information about the United Riders of Cumberland, please contact us via weride@unitedridersofcumberland.com or visit our website – www.unitedridersofcumberland.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DB', followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right and then curves downwards at the end.

Dougal Browne
Executive Director
United Riders of Cumberland

March 15, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association is a non-profit association, consisting of a range of local business and backcountry users. Our key goals are focused on infrastructure development and community education to help backcountry use and improve the backcountry experience for all user groups.

Trails and outdoor experiences are the most important, yet under supported, aspect of British Columbia's tourism-based economy. The proposed endowment is needed by the many businesses and advocates who're seeking to grow BC's outdoor recreation economy.

Much of BC's worldwide marketing is focused on trails and outdoor experiences, yet the work is left to the aging backs of a shrinking volunteer and not for profit based workforce. The crown corporation, Destination BC, is a prime example of marketing the experiences that are primarily built and maintained by small volunteer groups.

With ongoing and dedicated funding, "Beautiful British Columbia" will suffer, as will the experiences this beautiful province is capable of providing. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

If you require more information about VARDA please contact us. We are always willing to share our experiences and challenges.

Sincerely,



Curtis Pawliuk
General Manager
VARDA



VANCOUVER ISLAND TRAIL ASSOCIATION

236 Superior Street
Victoria, BC
V8V 1T5
www.vi-trail.ca

April 1, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

The Vancouver Island Trail Association (VITA) is a volunteer, not-for-profit organization building a non-motorized hiking trail from Victoria to Cape Scott. Once complete the trail has world class potential and will be approximately 800 km long.

The VITA supports the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's (ORCBC) proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the establishment of the BC Trail Fund. The VITA has been dedicated to trail building and maintenance projects on Vancouver Island as our main objective since our formation in 2011. Since then, VITA has cleared over 175 km of trails, maintains about 75 km of trail annually and has installed 3-4,000 trail markers. To accomplish this work, VITA volunteers have provided more than 4,000 hours annually on the Vancouver Island Trail over the last 5 years.

Funding for trail projects has always been an issue and with increasing number of people engaging in outdoor activities, volunteers can no longer handle the upkeep on all the trails without support. We need a dedicated funding source as proposed by ORCBC. A dedicated BC Trail Fund is needed to support development and maintenance of trails, access to trails and outdoor recreation infrastructure in BC. It is needed by volunteers, communities and organizations, which are seeking to grow BC's outdoor recreation opportunities and amenities. The upkeep and stewardship of our existing trails, facilities and outdoor spaces are fundamental to thriving communities and regional economies. Without long-term and dedicated funding, loss of access to trailheads, deterioration of trails, overcrowding and associated environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund would help ensure long-term planning and sustainability for these valuable assets and support those caring for them.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism sector and the Province as a whole.

If you need more information about VITA's work on trails and the types of projects that we have identified for work please contact Terry Lewis, VITA's Director of Operations - e-mail terry@lewis.bc.ca; phone 250-897-0490.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liz Bicknell".

Liz Bicknell
President, VITA
250 686-5840

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



April 12, 2022

File No. 0200

Outdoor Recreation Council of BC
PO Box 763
Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0
louisepedersen@orcbc.ca

Dear Louise,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund. On Monday April 11, 2022 Council unanimously supported this resolution:

THAT Council support the submission of a Letter of Support to the province for the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

Inconsistent and insufficient funding has been identified as a key barrier in the province's [Trails Strategy for BC](#) goal of sustainable trail development and maintenance. In response, ORC – whom the Village holds membership with as a local government and whom co-chair the [Provincial Trails Advisory Body](#) – have proposed the creation of a BC Trail Fund.

In regards to the local context, the Village of Cumberland is directly involved in the funding of the management and maintenance of the internationally renown Cumberland Trail Network. This includes direct responsibility for managing and maintaining over 25 kilometers of recreational trails in both the [Cumberland Community Forest](#) Park and the Village-owned Watershed Lands. Most of these trails are maintained as part of a service contract with Village partner and non-profit society, the [United Riders of Cumberland](#) (UROC).

Additionally, the Village also provides funding to UROC in support of their trail management and maintenance responsibilities for the remaining approximately 200 kilometers of recreational trails on private forest lands that make up the Cumberland Trail Network.

While the Village, UROC and other partners and supporters of the trails have developed a robust trail management framework, much work still needs to be done. This work is wide ranging, but includes many objectives, including:

- Collaborative trail planning;
- Trail maintenance and development projects as guided by the [Cumberland Community Forest Park Interim Trail Management Plan](#) and [Forest Lands: Management Direction Statement](#);
- Improve the quality of trail experiences, including safety improvements, signage, wayfinding, and other barriers to access;
- Trail head amenities;
- Sustainability and environmental stewardship, including watershed protection;
- Exploring opportunities for Indigenous support and involvement.

Access to funding from a BC Trail Fund would benefit the Village in achieving the above objectives, in addition to providing an additional funding resource for UROC to access.

Sincerely,



Leslie Baird
Mayor
Village of Cumberland



*Western Canada
Mountain Bike Tourism Association*
c/o 2654 Eton Street, Vancouver, BC V5K 1K1
email: info@mbta.ca

March 14, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: BC Trail Fund - Letter of Support

I am writing to support the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's proposal for a \$10 million endowment for the BC Trail Fund.

The MBTA works with over 40 communities in all regions of the province to promote mountain biking as a visitor experience through our consumer-focused Mountain Biking BC initiative. Mountain biking has become an important economic driver for many towns and rural communities while also improving the quality of life for local citizens.

The system of trail stewardship in BC relies heavily on volunteers to manage and maintain local trail networks. Participation in trail-based recreation has been increasing for over a decade but has accelerated recently during the COVID 19 pandemic. As participation grows there is much greater pressure placed on the volunteer trail groups that maintain the trails. This can impact not only the quality of the trail users' experience, but also their safety. Mountain biking alone generates significant tax revenue for BC from visitor expenditures yet receives little in the way of sustainable funding support. Without ongoing and dedicated funding, deteriorating trail conditions, overcrowding and environmental damage will continue to occur. The BC Trail Fund will help ensure that there's a long-term plan for caring for these valuable assets.

We look forward to seeing the BC Trail Fund come to fruition and the value that this new funding mechanism will bring to the outdoor recreation community, tourism interests and the province.

If you require more information about the MBTA, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Martin Littlejohn
Executive Director
Ph: 604-351-0202
Email: martin@mbta.ca