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Sent: May 24, 2021 8:22 PM

To: 'mmcgregor@acrd.bc.ca.'; Administration Shared <administration@acrd.bc.ca>; John Jack <jjack@acrd.bc.ca>

Subject: Franklin River Bridge Support

Good evening Chair and Directors of the ACRD, Michael McGregor ACRD Lands and Resources Coordinator and John Jack of the Huu-ay-aht First Nation.

Laurie Money in his capacity as Chair of the Alberni Valley Outdoor Club, recently wrote to the ACRD board offering to commit to contributing up to \$2000 towards an engineering study of a bridge or cable car crossing of the Franklin River. In his letter he indicated that the Vancouver Island Trail Association and the Alpine Club of Canada are also prepared to make contributions. As president of the Vancouver Island Trail Association, I am writing to confirm that the VITA board of directors have unanimously voted to approve in principle making a donation in a similar amount. Our directors would like to know who would be doing such an engineering study and what the expected cost would be before finalizing the amount of our donation. VITA funds are constrained but the importance of eliminating the last major obstacle on a trail between Victoria and Port Alberni cannot be overstated.

Until recently, I was president of the Victoria Outdoor Club which annually has between 150 and 200 members. As a result of my involvement with both the Victoria Outdoor Club and VITA I am aware that there is a huge amount of interest in hiking the Vancouver Island Trail and that the absence of an all-weather crossing of the Franklin River is a significant deterrent to extensive use of stage 3 of the Alberni Inlet Trail which is a vital link on the trail between Victoria and Port Alberni.

I believe in a collaborative approach. I also believe in an approach that is respectful in Indigenous worldviews and ways of knowing. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Let's get this bridge built.

Liz Bicknell
President, Vancouver Island Trail Association
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I am grateful to live and work on the traditional territory of the WSÁNEĆ, Lkwungen, Wyomilth peoples of the Coast Salish Nation who continue to maintain a profound and spiritual connection to the Land.

