

February 19, 2026

Daniel Scott
A Director
Ministry of Environment & Parks
Parks & Recreation Program

By Email: KVR.trail@gov.bc.ca



Dear Mr. Scott,

On behalf of the Christina Lake Trail Alliance, we are writing to express concern and disappointment regarding the Province's intention to close another section of the Trans Canada Trail, this time in the Princeton, BC area.

This is disheartening not only because of what may be lost for Similkameen Valley residents and visitors, but because it **reflects a broader pattern: major decisions affecting public trail corridors advancing without clear, broad engagement that is visible, consistent, and built into the process from the outset.**

We raise this because it parallels our experience with the Columbia & Western Rail Trail (CWRT), another section of the Trans-Canada Trail. As stakeholders, we were advised that our corridor was "returned to wilderness status," after commitments in 2020 to provide a road framework that would allow recreational use to continue. The experience left CWRT communities and stewardship partners feeling that **decisions were made first, with little intention to honour the relationships of the people most affected by those decisions.**

The Trans Canada Trail is not a local amenity; it is an international corridor. Segment closures have **long-term consequences, including reduced tourism investment confidence, economic repercussions for rural communities, and reputational harm to British Columbia as a renowned outdoor recreation destination.** These impacts are cumulative, and they affect communities well beyond the immediate closure area.

We recognize that government must balance public safety, environmental responsibility, and operational constraints. We are not writing to debate those responsibilities: We are asking your Ministry, and other government trail partners **commit to robust engagement strategies that ensure both the government, and the needs of communities, businesses and other stakeholders are heard, addressed and appropriately mitigated.**

Universal adherence to clear, broad engagement when closures or deactivations of major public trail corridors are being considered strengthens partnerships, invites local problem-solving, and protects public confidence in corridors of provincial and international significance.

The Christina Lake Trail Alliance supports constructive next steps for the Kettle Valley Rail Trail and the broader trail network. We encourage the government to participate in engagement in a way that upholds local context, supports respectful relationships, and helps protect British Columbia's standing as a world-class outdoor recreation destination.

Sincerely,

Tracey MacGregor

Authorized Representative

Christina Lake Trail Alliance

Representing Christina Gateway Community Development Association

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