

Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 2:40 PM

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Subject: Re: Urgent Request to Prioritize Restoration of the Kettle Valley Railway (KVR) Trans Canada Trail Section Between Princeton and Brookmere

Dear Honourable Minister,

I am writing as both a resident and an active member of the outdoor and local business community regarding the continued closure and proposed decommissioning of the Kettle Valley Railway (KVR) section of the Trans Canada Trail between Princeton and Brookmere. This corridor is not simply a recreational path, it is a historic, economic, and public safety asset that is deeply woven into the fabric of our region. I respectfully urge your office to reconsider any plan to decommission this section and instead prioritize funding, partnership, and long-term restoration.

A Corridor of Provincial and National Significance

The Kettle Valley Railway, constructed in the early 1900s, represents a remarkable chapter in Canadian engineering and transportation history. Following its rail closure, the corridor was transformed into one of Canada's most iconic multi-use trails and became a vital link in the Trans Canada Trail, connecting communities across British Columbia and the country.

British Columbia has demonstrated before that restoration is both achievable and worthwhile:

Myra Canyon Restoration

After twelve wooden trestles were destroyed by wildfire in 2003, governments invested approximately \$17 million to restore the Myra Canyon section. Today, it stands as one of the most visited and celebrated trail destinations in the province.

Othello Tunnels Restoration

Similarly, the Othello Tunnels section of the KVR, damaged during the 2021 floods, was restored at a cost of approximately \$10 million and successfully reopened. These examples demonstrate that when there is leadership and support, restoration of this heritage infrastructure is absolutely possible.

The Princeton–Brookmere section deserves the same commitment.

Economic Impact on Rural Communities

The KVR supports:

Tourism revenue for Princeton and surrounding communities

Local restaurants, accommodations, fuel stations, and retail shops

Guided tours, cycling events, and outdoor outfitters

Seasonal employment opportunities

For many small rural businesses, trail traffic is not supplemental income. It is essential income. Decommissioning this section would reduce tourism flow, fragment the route, and undermine long-term economic resilience in the region.

Public Safety Concerns

If the trail is permanently closed, users will be forced onto a narrow, winding rural roadway heavily used by passenger vehicles and commercial logging trucks.

This road was never designed to safely accommodate:

Cyclists

Families with children

Hikers

Horseback riders

Seniors

Organized recreation groups

The KVR has always provided a separated, vehicle-free route. Removing this safe corridor creates an avoidable and serious safety risk. Many residents feel it should not require a tragic accident to demonstrate the importance of preserving this safe connection.

This is not only a recreation issue. It is a public safety issue.

Community Sentiment

Many local residents increasingly feel that their voices are not being meaningfully considered in this decision. The KVR is part of our shared identity, our daily lives, and our economic survival.

When communities invest decades into maintaining, promoting, and protecting a public asset, the decision to permanently remove it without clear restoration effort sends a discouraging message.

Restoration would demonstrate that rural communities matter — and that their infrastructure is worth preserving.

Why Restoration Is the Responsible Path Forward

Restoring the Princeton–Brookmere section would:

Preserve a nationally significant historic corridor

Maintain continuity of the Trans Canada Trail

Protect rural tourism and small businesses

Improve public safety by avoiding dangerous road detours

Support long-term community health and outdoor recreation

Allow rebuilding with improved, flood-resilient infrastructure

This is an opportunity to rebuild stronger — not retreat.

Respectful Request for Action

I respectfully ask that your office:

Reconsider any plan to permanently decommission this section of the KVR

Advocate for provincial and federal funding for restoration

Work collaboratively with the Trans Canada Trail, regional districts, Indigenous communities, and local trail organizations to develop a sustainable repair strategy
Provide transparency and updates to local residents regarding the future of this corridor
The KVR between Princeton and Brookmere is an irreplaceable public asset. Once decommissioned, it will be extraordinarily difficult if not impossible to restore.
We are asking not just for a trail, but for safety, economic stability, heritage preservation, and community respect.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would sincerely appreciate updates on the actions being taken to support restoration of this vital corridor.

Yours sincerely,
Jeevan Dhaliwal
Local resident