



**Timberline Cruisers Snowmobile Club**

Tulameen BC  
VOX-1W0

February 10, 2026

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228 Collins Gulch Road  
Tulameen BC  
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**Daniel Scott**

A/Director, Trails and Trail Infrastructure  
Ministry of Environment & Parks  
PO Box 9811 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9W1

Via email: [KVR.Trail@gov.bc.ca](mailto:KVR.Trail@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Mr. Scott,

We are writing as the executive of the Timberline Cruisers Snowmobile Club, representing our membership and the many year-round users of the Kettle Valley Rail Trail corridor between **Princeton, Tulameen, Coalmont**, and toward **Merritt**.

We are formally objecting to the Province's decision to decommission this section of the KVR. Just as concerning as the decision itself is the ***lack of transparent process and meaningful community consultation*** before moving forward with permanent removal plans.

This corridor is not just a trail. It is safe access. It is family recreation. It is senior-friendly riding. It is year-round use by snowmobilers, hikers, cyclists, cross-country skiers, snowshoers, ORV users, anglers, and wildlife watchers. It connects communities, staging areas, warming routes, and access to fishing lakes and backcountry zones.

Our club's mandate is to represent our membership and help ensure safe passage to riding areas. Removing this corridor eliminates one of the few safe, flat, multi-use access routes available to families and older riders. That is not a minor adjustment — that is a permanent loss of accessibility.

Snowmobiling is also a proven economic driver in British Columbia. The sector contributes approximately **\$299 million** annually to the provincial economy and supports more than 4,000 jobs, many of them in rural communities like ours. Riders spend directly in small towns on fuel, lodging, food, repairs, gear, permits, and services. Winter recreation dollars help keep rural businesses operating through the off-season. In addition, snowmobile clubs like ours, contribute thousands of volunteer hours each year toward trail maintenance, safety, and stewardship — value that would otherwise cost millions to replace.

We are deeply frustrated by what feels like a growing pattern in rural BC: enormous natural resources are mined and milled out of our valleys, villages and rural communities, while reinvestment to the

services and supports to our taxpayers are dwindling. Not to mention, local access and recreation infrastructure falls way behind. The workers, families, and taxpayers who built and sustain this province — many of whom live here by choice and by trade — are watching their backcountry lifestyle fade and access steadily be reduced, instead of supported.

The term “decommissioning” may sound administrative, but on the ground, it means heavy equipment removing bridges, tearing out rail bed, and permanently erasing access wherever reachable. Once done, it cannot be undone. Certain parts of our valley will only be accessible by hazardous riverbed travel, seasonal one-way float trips, or helicopter. That is not public access — that is removal of public access.

We also question the governance process and financial logic. We understand significant public funds are being allocated toward permanent removal, while restoration is described as unaffordable. Spending millions to permanently delete infrastructure while dismissing rebuild options deserves public scrutiny and open regional discussion. Even partial preservation — especially between Princeton and Tulameen — ***should*** be on the table.

There has not been sufficient consultation with the groups most directly affected:

- Local governments and municipalities
- Recreation and snowmobile clubs
- Tourism operators
- Resource workers
- Search and Rescue groups
- Regional residents and users

That consultation must happen before irreversible action is taken. The current approach feels like overreach without due community governance.

We are calling for an immediate pause to decommissioning work and the launch of a structured, transparent consultation process. Our club — and others — are ready to participate in solution-focused discussions that balance safety, cost, access, and long-term regional value.

Our members expect to be heard — not informed after the decision is already set.

Respectfully,

*Leah Ward, Nadine Koronko, Tanner Sulentich*

Leah Ward, Vice President  
Nadine Koronko, Past President  
Tanner Sulentich, President

Timberline Cruisers Snowmobile Club  
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**cc:d**

Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport [TACS.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:TACS.minister@gov.bc.ca)

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Honourable Brittny Anderson, Minister of State for Local Government & Rural Communities  
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