



## **Merritt Snowmobile Club**

PO Box 2076  
Merritt, BC  
V1K 1B8

February 11, 2026

### **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 on behalf of the Merritt Snowmobile Club executive and our membership regarding the Province's decision to decommission sections of the Kettle Valley Rail Trail corridor affecting access from Coalmont toward Merritt and the surrounding areas.

Our club formally objects to the decommissioning of this corridor and to the lack of meaningful consultation with the communities and user groups most directly impacted.

The KVR corridor is far more than a former rail bed. It is a safe, flat, multi use access route that connects staging areas, warming huts, trail systems, and backcountry zones. For many families, seniors, and novice riders, it provides one of the only predictable and manageable access routes into the winter recreation areas surrounding Merritt. Removing this corridor significantly reduces safe entry points and increases pressure on alternative access routes that are steeper, more technical, and less suitable for broad community use.

Snowmobiling plays a substantial role in the local and provincial economy. Riders travel to Merritt from across British Columbia, purchasing fuel, accommodation, food, repairs, gear, permits, and services. Winter tourism sustains local businesses during traditionally slower months. In addition, clubs like ours contribute thousands of volunteer hours annually toward trail maintenance, signage, safety infrastructure, and stewardship. The value of this volunteer contribution cannot be understated.

"Decommissioning" may sound administrative, but on the ground, it means permanent removal of bridges, infrastructure, and reliable access. Once this work is completed, restoration becomes unlikely and cost-prohibitive. Loss of this corridor will fragment the Canadian rail to trail network and eliminate one of the few accessible connectors linking communities and recreation areas.



We are also concerned about the financial rationale. Allocating significant public funds toward permanent removal while stating restoration is unaffordable deserves open regional discussion. Partial preservation, phased planning, or alternative infrastructure solutions should be evaluated before irreversible decisions are made.

To date, consultation has not been sufficient with:

- Local governments and municipal leadership
- Recreation and snowmobile clubs
- Tourism operators
- Small businesses dependent on winter visitation
- Resource workers
- Search and Rescue groups
- Regional residents and trail users

We respectfully request an immediate pause on further decommissioning activity affecting the KVR corridor near Merritt. A structured, transparent consultation process must occur before permanent decisions are finalized.

Our club is ready to participate in constructive, solution focused dialogue that balances environmental responsibility, safety, access, and long term regional value.

Our members expect to be part of the conversation before decisions are set in motion.

Respectfully,

*Mat Selzler, Simon Rizzardo*

Mat Selzler, President

Simon Rizzardo, Vice President

merrittsnowmobileclub@hotmail.ca

**Merritt Snowmobile Club**



cc:d

Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport TACS.minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Tamara Davidson, Minister of Parks and Environment ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Brittany Anderson, Minister of State for Local Government & Rural Communities  
msp.minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Rechie Valdez, Minister of Women and Gender Equity and Secretary of State for Small  
Business and Tourism (Canada) Minister-Ministre@wage-fegc.gc.ca

MLA Donegal Wilson, Boundary-Similkameen [Donegal.Wilson.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Donegal.Wilson.MLA@leg.bc.ca)

MLA Tony Luck, Fraser-Nicola, Tony.Luck.MLA@leg.bc.ca

MP Helana Konanz, Similkameen-South Okanagan-West Kootenay helena.konanz@parl.gc.ca

Mayor Spencer Coyne, Town of Princeton, scoyne@princeton.ca

Chair Mark Pendergraft, Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen mpendergraft@rdos.bc.ca

Director Bob Coyne, Area H Representative, Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen  
bcoyne@rdos.bc.ca

City of Merritt Mayor, Mike Goetz, michael.goetz@merritt.ca

Mark Koch, Managing Director - Community and Environmental Services, Regional District  
Okanagan-Similkameen mkoch@rdos.bc.ca

Chair Tim Roberts, Similkameen Valley Planning Society svplanningsociety@gmail.com

Trails BC trailsbc@trailsbc.ca

Mathieu Roy, CEO Trans Canada Trail mroy@tctrail.ca

Ellen Walker-Mathews, CEO Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association ceo@totabc.ca

Joyce Edwards, President, Princeton & District Chamber of Commerce princetonchamber@gmail.com

Kevin Pearce, Executive Director Visit Pentiction kevin@visitpentiction.com

Destination Summerland visitors@summerlandchamber.com

Sarah Sinclair, Executive Director BC Rural Centre sarah@bcruralcentre.org

Tim Bennett, District Recreation Officer, Cascades Recreation District, tim.bennett@gov.bc.ca

Mardi Hassell, President, Tulameen Community Club mhassell@tulameenbc.com

Amber Lane, Executive Director, BC Snowmobile Federation, alane@bcfsf.org

Kelly Reichert, President, Timberline Cruisers ATV Club, otterrock@icloud.com

Chris D'Silva, President, ATVBC, [Chris.dsilva@atvbc.ca](mailto:Chris.dsilva@atvbc.ca)

Merritt Herald, [reporter@merritherald.com](mailto:reporter@merritherald.com)

Q101 Radio, Gavin Anshelm, [Gavin.Anshelm@pattisonmedia.com](mailto:Gavin.Anshelm@pattisonmedia.com)

CTV Vancouver, [bcassign@ctv.ca](mailto:bcassign@ctv.ca)

CFJC Kamloops News, [kamloops-newsroom@pattisonmedia.com](mailto:kamloops-newsroom@pattisonmedia.com)

CBC News, [cbcnewsvancouver@cbc.ca](mailto:cbcnewsvancouver@cbc.ca)