

Grand Forks Community Trails Society

Box 2921, Grand Forks, BC V0H 1H0

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To Whom it May Concern:

The Grand Forks Community Trails Society would like to offer their support and practical solutions to the backers of the initiative to have a section of the rail line running from Republic to the Danville border crossing, just west of Grand Forks, to be turned into a hiking and biking trail. We have a number of reasons.

First, when the Grand Forks Community Trails Society was getting started, we looked to Trails groups in the United States who had already developed and completed initiatives to turn abandoned rail grades to community trails. It is only fitting and appropriate for us to share the knowledge and experiences we have gained with another nearby group – it is even more appropriate given that group is across the border. It would be our opportunity to repay the original groups that helped our organization get started.

Second, this would be an opportunity to celebrate the early history of Grand Forks when there were several terminuses of a panoply of rail lines into the City, both from other parts of Canada and from larger centers nearby in the United States. Several of these former railbeds, most notably the Columbia and Western Line from the east, and the Kettle Valley Rail line to the west, now form a part of the Trans-Canada Trail.

Third, we have over the years developed many practical solutions to trail management issues. We have worked through trail surfacing, barrier design, fencing for adjacent landowners as well as trestle decking over the years, and would welcome the opportunity to share our knowledge. We should not pass up such great opportunities.

Yours in Trails,



George Longden, Chairperson