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**[Your organization's Letterhead]**

**May 15, 2025**

To Whom it May Concern

**RE: Letter of Support – Indigenous-Led Inter-Community Valley Rail Planning Study (Osoyoos–Kelowna–Kamloops Corridor)**

Ladies & Gentlemen,

On behalf of the **(insert your organization name here)**, I am writing to offer our full and unequivocal support for the \$3 million planning study for the proposed **Indigenous-led hydrail light rail corridor** spanning Osoyoos, Kelowna, and Kamloops. This transformative initiative is not only aligned with the urgent need for sustainable, zero-emission transportation—it embodies the principles of reconciliation, regional equity, and community empowerment.

This project represents a **first-of-its-kind Indigenous-led inter-community rail initiative** in British Columbia. As such, it stands as a model for the implementation of the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)**, which is enshrined in both **provincial (Declaration Act)** and **federal policy frameworks**. In particular, the project fulfills critical commitments to:

- **Advance Indigenous self-determination** in infrastructure design and governance;
- **Support equitable access** to health, education, and economic opportunity across Nations and communities;
- **Promote sustainable development** that respects Indigenous land, knowledge, and long-term planning values.

### **Grounded in Indigenous Leadership and Public Support**

Findings from a **November 2024 ThoughtExchange survey** conducted by MC2 Management Ltd., at a Valley Rail community forum co-hosted by the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA), Okanagan Transit Alliance (OTA) and UBCO, illustrate overwhelming support for:

- An Indigenous-led process rooted in community-defined priorities;
- Public funding mechanisms that ensure **universal access and public ownership**;
- A regional system designed to serve Elders, youth, and underserved communities;
- Collaboration between First Nations, municipalities, and the Province in a **nation-to-nation approach** to infrastructure planning.

As articulated by **Secwepemc Nation citizen Dawn McGrath, UBCO PhD Candidate**, this is not merely a transportation initiative—it is a public health, cultural, and climate resilience

investment. It opens the door to bold, inclusive infrastructure development that integrates Indigenous legal orders, planning practices, and land stewardship principles.

## **Alignment with Provincial and Federal Mandates**

This project exemplifies the goals of:

- **BC's Declaration Act Action Plan (2022–2027)**, especially Actions 4.12 and 4.13, which commit to Indigenous-led climate infrastructure and improved access to services in rural and remote Indigenous communities;
- **Canada's National Infrastructure Assessment and Green Infrastructure Stream**, which prioritize Indigenous leadership and clean transportation;
- The **CleanBC Plan** and the federal **Hydrogen Strategy for Canada**, under which green hydrail technology is recognized as a key decarbonization pathway.

Additionally, the project aligns with our **(insert here your organizations' relevant strategic priorities/values/)**, and our commitment to **regenerative tourism development**, ensuring that visitor economies contribute to the well-being of local communities and the protection of the lands we all rely upon.

## **Our Commitment**

**(Replace with name of your organization)** stands ready to collaborate with the Syilx Okanagan Nation, the Osoyoos Indian Band, the Secwepemc Nation, and all partners advancing this bold vision. We support the planning study as an essential step toward implementation and call on all levels of government to contribute to its funding and long-term success.

We recognize the power of Indigenous leadership to guide our region toward a more just, connected, and sustainable future—and we are honoured to walk this path in support.

Sincerely,