



December 9, 2022

To: The Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture & Sport

Delivered by email: TACS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

RE: Kettle Valley Rail Trail Flood Damage Repairs

We are writing you today on behalf of our over 5100 members of the Quad Riders Association of BC (ATVBC) to ask for your support for the KVR rail trail and the repairs needed as a result of the November 2021 flood damage.

We have heard from many of our members around the province who have expressed concerns on the current state and future of our beloved KVR trail. In addition to local ATV clubs who frequently use the trail, we have countless members who travel from around the province to vacation in the region, to take advantage of the KVR and all its riding options. This travel creates a valuable economic impact to the area, and with its loss, the local communities will be negatively impacted. A very good reason for the KVR trail to be repaired and brought back to a useable and safe state.

One of the primary reasons our members chose to visit, live, and play in the region is the appeal of country life, with its endless outdoor recreation opportunities, with the KVR a major part of the recreation infrastructure. Our members spend many hours each year building memories in their regular outings on the KVR. Here they stop along the river for a picnic and spend the day with the family, teaching their children the history of the area and to respect the environment and land that gives us so much. However, this is no longer possible as the trail, is no longer accessible due to the numerous washouts from the 2021 flood.

In addition to recreation values, the KVR trail acts as a transportation corridor connecting rural communities throughout the Similkameen Valley, driving economic success in a number of ways, including trail tourism, creating jobs, improved quality of life, community health, and local business growth, which make our rural communities more desirable.

November 2022 marked the 1-year anniversary of the flood damage; therefore, we urge you to please support repairing the KVR trail and by allocating funding in the 2023 Budget for the repairs needed, for the benefit of all British Columbians. Let's bring this trail back to its former glory, so that my family, our members, and the community, can once again safely enjoy the outdoor activities that the region is known for.

Sincerely,

Kristin Parsons
Executive Director ATVBC
executivedirector@atvbc.ca

cc: ATVBC Board of Directors