



BRITISH COLUMBIA

AGENDA  SB  RB

Corporate

SEP 1 1998

Reference: 36866

CC: \_\_\_\_\_

ACTION: September 17, 1998

NO: \_\_\_\_\_ 7(e)

R. Mayer, Chair, and Directors  
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen  
101 Martin St  
Penticton BC V2A 5J9

Dear R. Mayer and Directors:

Thank you for your letter of June 10, 1998, supporting the acquisition of the portion of the old Kettle Valley Railway right of way extending from the Trout Creek trestle in Summerland to the Sage Mesa area of Penticton.

The portion of the right of way referred to in your letter was not acquired by the provincial government and is still owned by CP Rail. When this government was negotiating with CP over the purchase of the old Kettle Valley Railway line, we were working with limited funds. To maximize the amount of right of way acquired, the ministry negotiated a cash payment and an exchange of Crown land with CP Rail. Unfortunately, all portions of the right of way could not be purchased. Funds are still not available to purchase the remaining portions of the right of way including the section extending from the Trout Creek trestle to the Penticton Indian reserve boundary.

I agree with your comments that the addition of this portion of the right of way could provide additional heritage and economic benefits for your community. As this right of way is still owned by CP Rail, the company may be receptive to negotiate directly with the regional district. If you are interested in pursuing this option, you may wish to contact the ministry regional office in Kamloops to obtain background information on this portion of the right of way.

The regional district's support for the future use and development of the Kettle Valley Railway right of way is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

*Cathy McGregor*  
for Cathy McGregor  
Minister

