

July 23, 2020

To Whom It May Concern;

This letter will express Tourism Chilliwack's support for the Bridal Falls Gondola project and its application for Crown Tenure application file no. 100240241 Chipmunk Creek for the creation of an eco-tourism, cultural tourism amenity with a base area at the current Bridal Falls Golf course with a gondola accessing and terminating on the ridgeline at approx. 1250m on the ridge West of Mt Archibald. It is our view that this project will provide extraordinary benefits for our community and the broader communities of the Eastern Fraser Valley.

This project has a myriad of benefits for the larger community. And currently this tenure area and lands have been compromised and environmentally impacted thru industrial clear cut logging, ATV use, littering, pollution, illegal trail building, and other unsanctioned and uncontrolled actions that are a detriment to the environment therein.

The benefits of the project are both economic and cultural. By providing a high profile to visitors from all over BC, Canada and the world, our First Nations community's culture will have unprecedented exposure that will encourage learning, understanding and awareness. The project also has tremendous economic benefits as well. And in particular, given the extreme damage to the tourism industry, local economy and provincial economy from COVID-19, now more than ever, projects that can create stimulus, jobs, and investment while at the same time creating a substantial sustainable outdoor recreational/cultural amenity for the local community that encourages a healthy lifestyle is ideal. Some of the specific benefits are:

- \$70 Million in total investment.
- >300 fulltime and part time jobs when operational
- Over 1000 direct and indirect jobs during construction.
- Unequalled economic opportunity for our community.
- The key project as a centerpiece for tourism promotion and development of the Fraser Valley. Key additional driver to the "Experience the Fraser" initiative.
- An eco-tourism experience that will allow people to explore and learn about nature, our forests, and the animals that are part of this ecosystem.
- When completed it will provide access to a range of physical abilities, age or mobility for our community members to enjoy the mountains and forests of the high terrain in a sustainable fashion.
- Provides an unequalled opportunity to share Stó:lō People's culture with a broader world, their language, their history, traditional practices and so much more.


- It provides a very large investment in long term infrastructure that provides world class outdoor recreation opportunities for locals and visitors alike that is year round in nature.
- Values consistent with the stated goals and strategies for the Fraser Valley Regional District, the City of Chilliwack as well as our community values.
- Consistent with the community desire to build greater outdoor recreational opportunities for health and happiness of our community members, youth and seniors.
- Provides a much improved degree of protection and management for the Chipmunk Creek area and land base that currently is under considerable and ongoing negative pressure with damaging impacts on wildlife, traditional First Nation cultural use, environment and community fire safety due to illegal trails from ATV use, clear cut logging, unrestricted fires, camping and other activities. We have already expressed our concerns and desire to remove these activities and the threats to our traditional lands.
- Utilizes existing tourism areas for the main base area and its infrastructure consistent with historical use and commercial interests of the area.
- Provides a huge stimulus and anchor attraction for the Bridal Falls/Popkum businesses that will be sustainable and valuable over time.
- Provides a "world class" amenity to the Chilliwack area and will no doubt stimulate more day and overnight visits for the local tourism economy.
- Will bring an improved and increased profile to the regional area and the rich and diverse nature of the communities, recreational opportunities, businesses and more.
- Will showcase the Fraser Valley and its environs as the centerpiece attraction and views.

Our organization is fully prepared to provide resources to ensure the maximum economic and socio economic impact is realized with the Bridal Falls Gondola by working alongside them and the other surrounding destination marketing organizations in the Fraser Valley.

Tourism Chilliwack believes that this project has minimal impacts on the land, wildlife value and the areas around it by being non-motorised, human powered activities.

Clearly this project will be a very positive addition to our community, and it will be a key component in our economic future. I/We support its vision and ultimate approval and look forward to seeing the process move forward in earnest.

Sincerely,



Brian Minter  
Chair, Tourism Chilliwack