



## Towards Restoration – your contribution will make rail service a reality.

The re-establishment of a viable rail service on the Vancouver Island Railway has been a priority for Island communities since 2004 – when Regional Districts, municipalities and First Nations first rallied together to save the railway from closure. Forming the Island Corridor Foundation and acquiring ownership of the railway was the first step in the process. Partnering with a successful rail operator was the second (Southern Railway of British Columbia). The third step, which will make rail service a reality, is the incremental rebuilding of the railway to restore passenger service and expand freight service.

Detailed studies have identified the need for approximately \$20.9 million worth of incremental upgrades to restore service for a minimum of ten years. The ICF has worked tirelessly to build a strong business case and attract investment. These efforts have been tremendously successful - the provincial and federal governments have confirmed a combined total of \$15million in funding.

This has substantially reduced the amount of funding required from member Regional Districts to just 15% of the total project cost, or \$3.2 million. Shared by all five member Regional Districts, the cost to taxpayers (based on assessment) would be approximately \$0.43 per \$100,000 of assessed value. For example, the cost for a property worth \$400,000 would be around \$1.72 per year, for five years.

This investment is critical to the future of rail service on Vancouver Island. Without it, the provincial/federal funding will be lost, and the future of the Vancouver Island railway will be in jeopardy.



## Your Railway, Your Decision It's Now Up to You

### Vancouver Island Railroad Infrastructure Project (Phase 1)

#### Funding Sources

Government of Canada	\$7.5 million
Province of BC	\$7.5 million
Southern Railway of Vancouver Island	\$500,000
ICF Loan / Fundraiser	\$2.2 million

#### **Member Community**

**(Regional Districts') Contribution      \$3.2 million (required)**

**TOTAL PROJECT COST      \$20.9 million**

#### Related benefits:

- ✓ 25-year operating agreement / \$70 million value.
- ✓ First Nation Railway Trackman training and employment program.
- ✓ First Nation Conductor/Engineer scholarship program.

### Vancouver Island Railway

A \$366 million historic asset that **belongs to you** – the Island communities located within the following five Regional Districts that participate in shared ownership along with 13 First Nations communities:

- Alberni-Clayoquot
- Capital Region
- Comox Valley
- Cowichan Valley
- Nanaimo

The provincial and federal governments have generously committed \$15million to repair your railway. This transportation corridor travels right through Vancouver Island's most populated areas – bustling regions that are currently lacking an efficient alternative for transporting both people and goods. This is a one-time funding request to rebuild the railway and make sure your community's efforts to acquire it ultimately pay off.

## How Will Island Communities Benefit?

The Island Corridor Foundation entered into a contract for operation of the rail system with Southern Railway of British Columbia (SRY). The ICF and SRY's Island subsidiary (Southern Railway of Vancouver Island, or SVI) have completed a draft 25-year operating agreement, which can be finalized in conjunction with the funding approval for the member communities' portion of the project. This long-term agreement will result in numerous benefits for Island communities, including:

### Job Creation & Spending

- the proposed project will generate almost \$20 million in construction spending, creating an estimated 164 jobs, along with \$7.7 million in wages and salaries;
- In the longer term, an estimated 15 to 30 full-time positions will be saved and/or created within SVI's operations/maintenance department.
- Upon project completion, SVI will inject approximately \$42 million over 10 years into the Island economy for wages, salaries, goods and services.

### Restored Passenger Rail Service

- A new agreement to be negotiated with VIA Rail will provide for restored passenger service between Victoria and Courtenay. Improvements including upgraded rail cars and scheduling changes to provide an additional early morning southbound commuter run from Nanaimo to Victoria, and an additional early evening run returning to Nanaimo from Victoria.

### Expanded Marketplaces for Island-Produced Goods

The delivery of locally-produced goods to market in a timely and cost-effective manner plays a critical role in the Island's economy. The project will set the stage for expanded freight service.

- Seamless transfers through the new SRY-owned Annacis Island Marine Terminal will connect Island industries to four "Class 1" railroads and North American markets.
- Upgraded infrastructure and efficient access to expanded marketplaces will support growth in several key sectors, including forestry, agriculture, animal feed, propane, fuel products and concrete. It will also enable SVI to aggressively attract new freight business – target markets include aggregate, coal, and manufactured forest products.

### Environment

Rail is rapidly being accepted across North America as the green transportation alternative. Trains account for far fewer emissions than other forms of transport and are, on average, three times more fuel-efficient than truck transport. Improved passenger service for residents commuting to the Capital Regional District will remove even more vehicle traffic. This will reduce GHG emissions, alleviate congestion and improve road safety. It will also provide an important transportation alternative linking the central, south and north Island regions.

### First Nations Socio-Economic Benefits

The ICF, in partnership with SVI, has initiated two innovative project-related employment programs, both of which are specifically designed to facilitate permanent, full-time employment opportunities for members of Vancouver Island's First Nations communities. They include a Railway Trackman training & employment program, as well as a conductor/engineer scholarship program.

*"We have not come this far, worked this hard and achieved this much to walk away from the Railway at this critical time. As the owners of this multi-million dollar asset, we must recognize the enormous value of this one-time, \$15million gift from the federal and provincial governments, and take immediate action to ensure this opportunity is not lost."*