

**From:** [Tom Yates](#)  
**To:** [Tom Yates](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Island Railway to Boost Economy and our Future  
**Date:** May 6, 2020 2:30:35 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**From:** Mayor Leonard Krog <[Leonard.Krog@nanaimo.ca](mailto:Leonard.Krog@nanaimo.ca)>  
**Sent:** May 4, 2020 1:51 PM  
**To:** Terry Newsted <[tnewsted@gmail.com](mailto:tnewsted@gmail.com)>  
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**Subject:** RE: Support for Island Railway to Boost Economy and our Future

Good afternoon, Thank you for your kind words. I remain an unrepentant advocate for timely public capital expenditure and upgrading the railway is so obviously a project whose time has come. As the ICF has pointed out the ties could be produced right here on Vancouver Island. We have found billions to put in people's pockets to get us through this economic crisis and pandemic so why not employ them in this project which is a proven way to reduce our carbon footprint? Just sayin.....

*Mayor Leonard Krog*

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**From:** Terry Newsted <[tnewsted@gmail.com](mailto:tnewsted@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 04, 2020 10:52 AM  
**To:** Mayor Leonard Krog <[Leonard.Krog@nanaimo.ca](mailto:Leonard.Krog@nanaimo.ca)>  
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**Subject:** Support for Island Railway to Boost Economy and our Future

**Attention: Mr. Krog and others who are willing to give serious and thoughtful consideration to Mr. Krog's proposal to regenerate the Vancouver Island economy with the rebuilding of the E & N Rail Line on Vancouver Island.**

Mr. Krog, I was very pleased to read your comments in the Times Colonist of May 3, 2020, stating the obvious about the E & N Corridor. Your statement is right on. *"It is an absolutely horrendous undertaking to create a rail system through a populated area. We have it in place - it is irreplaceable."*

And the statement from Ladysmith Mayor Stone, *"The biggest challenge is to ensure that we never lose that corridor"*

Your ideas regarding the resurrection of rail service as a boost to the Island economy, especially in the months and years after this pandemic, as was noted in the article and also supported by Ladysmith, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Port Alberni and Comox Valley representatives is visionary. And I would add, very likely an idea supported by other Island communities and residents, too. You have suggested a possible way to assist the many who have been and possibly will be, impacted by the COVID-19 shut down to the economy.

Too many of our political leaders say rail service is not economically viable, not a money maker. How many highways, ferries, bridges or other infrastructure investments are money makers? A short sighted and disappointing comment, in my mind, by too many of our local politicians.

You, however, have a forward thinking idea. Knowing the next years will be difficult for many, this project has the potential to create employment and to support businesses up and down the Island. And when completed we would have rail service (passenger/freight) from Victoria to Courtenay and points between. Workers, their families and communities up and down the Island would have been supported during a very difficult time and could be proud of their achievement.

Your idea reflects real assistance during a difficult time. Not just a hand out of money to some group, business or person etc. to supposedly help them survive this COVI-19 situation. Money which, in the end, needs to be paid back I should say. Your solution gives an opportunity for Islanders to work, to earn money and to support their families and to boost their self esteem.

I would like to include a quote from the book, *Along the E & N, A Journey Back to the Historic Hotels of Vancouver Island* by Glen A. Mofford.

*"Just as the transcontinental railway linked Canada from east to west, the E & N Railway linked Vancouver Island south to north, playing a significant role in opening up parts of the Island that had previously been inaccessible .....*

*...the railroad filled the gap, breaking the isolation of many communities and allowing them to grow and prosper. And as the communities expanded, existing businesses benefited, and new businesses emerged, including a variety of hotels, from luxurious resorts to the most modest inns."*

Mr. Krog you have my full support. I would hope those who have denied rail service to be re-established on Vancouver Island these past eleven years, would look at your proposal in a different light and they too would support your suggestion to give concrete aid to Island residents, families and communities. Not just a temporary band-aide.

**Let's have a made on Vancouver Island solution to the ramifications of COVID-19!**

Good luck with your endeavour. I hope you are successful.

Marilynn Newsted  
Qualicum Beach