

June 29, 2026

To: The Right Honourable Mark Carney  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Sent via email: [mark.carney@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mark.carney@parl.gc.ca)

Re: NATIONAL ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITY – WEST COAST CORRIDOR RESILIENCY  
PARTNERSHIP (WCCRP)

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Dear Prime Minister,

The Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce is taking this opportunity to express our strong support for the West Coast Corridor Resiliency Partnership (WCCRP), a collaborative initiative dedicated to strengthening Canada's economic resilience through strategic investments in critical transportation, energy, and agricultural infrastructure.

As the voice of nearly 500 businesses across the South Okanagan, our Chamber has become one of British Columbia's leading advocates for transportation resiliency. Over the past several years, we have worked with municipal, provincial, and federal governments to address the growing economic risks associated with increasingly frequent highway closures caused by floods, wildfires, landslides, severe weather, and major collisions. We have championed policies that strengthen emergency transportation planning and improve secondary transportation routes because our business community has experienced first-hand the consequences of infrastructure vulnerabilities.

The South Okanagan is the largest population centre in British Columbia that relies on a single primary highway connection to the rest of the province. When Highway 97 is closed, there is no equivalent alternative route capable of maintaining the uninterrupted movement of people, goods, emergency services, and commercial traffic. Businesses are forced to absorb shipment delays, increased transportation costs, cancelled travel, supply shortages, lost tourism revenue, and disruptions to daily operations. These events have demonstrated that transportation resiliency is not simply an infrastructure issue, it is an economic issue.

While our advocacy has focused on improving resiliency for the South Okanagan, we recognize that these challenges begin long before Highway 97 reaches our communities. The Fraser Valley corridor is one of Canada's most strategically important economic gateways, connecting the Port of Vancouver and the Lower Mainland to the rest of British Columbia and Canada. It serves as a vital corridor for domestic commerce, international trade, energy distribution, and agricultural production.

The flooding events of 2021 and 2025 clearly demonstrated that failures within this corridor create cascading consequences across the country. Highway closures, damaged rail infrastructure, disrupted pipelines, and flooded agricultural lands affected businesses and communities hundreds of kilometres away, including those in the South Okanagan. These events exposed the reality that Canada's supply chains are only as resilient as their most vulnerable links.

The West Coast Corridor Resiliency Partnership represents exactly the type of coordinated, long-term approach required to address these vulnerabilities. By bringing together municipalities, governments, and stakeholders around a shared infrastructure vision, the Partnership recognizes that investments in resilient transportation networks strengthen Canada's economy, improve emergency preparedness, protect food security, reinforce energy reliability, and enhance our competitiveness in global markets.

From the perspective of our business community, investments in the Fraser Valley corridor are investments in every region of British Columbia. Improving the resilience of Canada's Pacific Gateway will strengthen the transportation systems that businesses across the province depend upon every day, regardless of their location.

The Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce respectfully encourages the Government of Canada to recognize the West Coast Corridor Resiliency Partnership as a national infrastructure priority and to provide the leadership and investment necessary to strengthen this critical economic corridor. The cost of proactive investment today will be far outweighed by the economic and social costs of future disruptions if these vulnerabilities remain unaddressed.

Canada's economy depends on reliable transportation infrastructure. Building resilience into our most important corridors is not simply an investment in roads and bridges—it is an investment in economic security, business confidence, public safety, and the long-term prosperity of communities from the Fraser Valley to the South Okanagan and beyond.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important initiative. We appreciate the opportunity to express our support and look forward to seeing the Government of Canada work collaboratively with provincial and municipal partners to strengthen one of Canada's most important economic corridors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jordan Knox'.

Jordan Knox,  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Michael Magnusson'.

Michael Magnusson,  
Executive Director

Cc: Federal Ministries:

The Honourable Steven MacKinnon, Minister of Transport  
The Honourable Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure  
The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Finance and National Revenue  
The Honourable Tim Hodgson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources  
The Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Public Safety  
The Honourable Julie Dabrusin, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature  
The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Industry  
Helena Konanz, Member of Parliament for Similkameen–South Okanagan–West Kootenay

Provincial:

The Honourable Mike Farnworth, British Columbia's Minister of Transportation and Transit  
Amelia Boulton, Member of the Legislative Assembly Penticton-Summerland

Local Government:

Mayor Julius Bloomfield, City of Penticton  
ȷilmixʷm (Chief) Greg Gabriel, snpink'tn Indian Band  
Mark Pendergraft, Chair of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS)