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**Subject:** Support & funding opps for recreational trails

Hi Jim,

I enjoyed your presentation at the ORCBC AGM, it was great to hear the benefits of BC Parks and RSTBC working together under one Ministry, and from a tourism perspective, was particularly interested in hearing about integrated digital services for mapping, and provincial trail/signage standards.

The Thompson Okanagan Tourism Foundation (TOTF) was established in 2019 to support the development and maintenance of Thompson Okanagan recreational trails, with particular focus on advancement of regional rail trail corridors.

My duties at TOTF include sourcing funding opportunities and as such have come across the Infrastructure Canada Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) with an open intake until July 20, 2022 and wanted to inquire to see if the province has any plans to apply to this fund or any other fund for KVR repairs from the 2021 flood?

The [DMAF Fund](#) covers a broad range of disaster relief and the application guidelines advise there are no limits to the number of applications that can be submitted by an eligible applicant, so it appears there could be opportunity for the province to apply for a KVR restoration project even if they are applying for other disaster relief.

Considering the socio-economic, environmental, cultural and heritage impacts that have been triggered by the damages to the KVR. Also considering the KVR trail provides protection for a lot of homes and properties throughout the valley it would seem that a KVR project would meet the goals and objectives of the DMAF fund to address infrastructure failures from natural hazards and extreme weather events.

Any info or insight you can share on the status of the KVR trail and plans for recovery would be greatly appreciated.

On another front, TOTF has reached out to ORCBC regarding a potential application to the federal Tourism Relief Fund (TRF) for an economic study and market analysis for outdoor recreation so was pleased to hear you mention at the ORCBC AGM that government is looking at undertaking an outdoor recreation research project.

One of the TRF fund's primary goals is to provide support to local communities to develop sustainable tourism plans based on research and market analysis, and with TOTF's mandate for recreational trails, an economic impact study and market analysis of outdoor recreation and trails would align with the fund's and TOTF's goals and provide ongoing benefits to recreational trails as a tool to assist in writing grant applications to secure future funding.

I am most interested in finding out more about the vision and scope of the Ministry's project so that TOTF's application to the TRF fund can best support outdoor recreation and complement the Ministry's efforts.

If the Ministry's project broadly encompasses outdoor recreation activities, then TOTF is considering applying for a trails study project, to determine trail usage, visitation, economic impact, increasing visitation during winter and shoulder seasons, utilizing existing natural infrastructure, developing new offerings, capacity building, as a trails specific report would be a valuable tool for TOTF to achieve its vision of leading initiatives to preserve, nurture, and sustain trail systems that unite the region.

I look forward to working with you and continuing to work with the team at RSTBC that I have had the pleasure of working with for several years in support of recreational trails and the communities they benefit!

Regards,  
Kim



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*A subsidiary of the [Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association \(TOTA\)](#)*

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