

October 25, 2023

Board of Directors  
Cowichan Valley Regional District  
1st Floor, 175 Ingram Street  
Duncan, BC V9L 1N8

**RE: Support for REDIP Grant**

Ladysmith Council recently passed a resolution, directing staff to apply for funding from the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) to design and secure access for a mountain bike trail network. The attached council report provides additional information on the proposed project.

Ladysmith is committed to fostering economic development within our community and the broader region. Our recent Economic Development Strategy, developed under the management of Economic Development Cowichan, has identified several key initiatives to drive economic growth. Among these initiatives, the creation of a mountain bike trail network has emerged as a top priority.

As part of our preparations for the REDIP grant application, we have reviewed the CVRD's Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan, which identifies key areas near Ladysmith (e.g. the Heart and Stocking Lake Uplands) as suitable locations for the development of mountain bike trails.

Mountain biking is not only a rapidly growing sport but also a substantial industry in British Columbia, generating millions of dollars annually. The opportunity to develop a sanctioned trail network in and around Ladysmith presents significant economic potential for both our town and the surrounding area, in line with our shared regional goals for economic diversification. In preparing the REDIP application, the Town is actively engaged with Mosaic Forest Products, the Stz'uminus First Nation, and other key parties.

We kindly request a support letter from the CVRD for the Town's REDIP application, as it will play a vital role in demonstrating the regional significance and broad community backing for this project.

Thank you for your consideration and ongoing partnership. We remain committed to working together to build a thriving and sustainable future for our region.

Sincerely,



Allison McCarrick, CAO Ladysmith