

Legislative Office
Room 201, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Constituency Office
2909 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6K 2G6



**Province of
British Columbia**
Legislative Assembly



David Eby, MLA
(Vancouver-Point Grey)

July 15, 2014

Mr. E. Hunter Harrison, CEO and Director
Canadian Pacific Railway Company
7550 Ogden Dale Road S.E.
Calgary, AB T2C 4X9
Canada

VIA FAX: (403) 205-9000

Dear Mr. Harrison:

RE: CP Rail Arbutus Corridor in Vancouver, British Columbia

I am writing to you in my capacity as Member of the Legislative Assembly for the provincial constituency of Vancouver-Point Grey in British Columbia.

Recently, CP Rail has written to individuals who operate community gardens along the “Arbutus Corridor” in Vancouver that CP intends to remove their gardens by July 31, 2014 in order to use this long-dormant rail corridor for training purposes. As the tracks in question follow the eastern boundary of my constituency along Arbutus Street, many of my constituents have brought forward their concerns to me, along with many suggestions of how CP could minimize the impact of this policy change on the community gardens.

We have reassured our constituents that we believe CP is a responsible company that wishes to maintain positive relations with the communities it supports, and relies upon. However, I am writing to let you know that CP’s sudden change of policy concerning land use in this corridor will severely impact many community members who have worked tirelessly to create a vibrant garden and community space along railway tracks that have been abandoned for many years. Many, many more who have not been involved directly in gardening, greatly enjoy the beauty and community feel these gardens bring to our neighbourhoods.

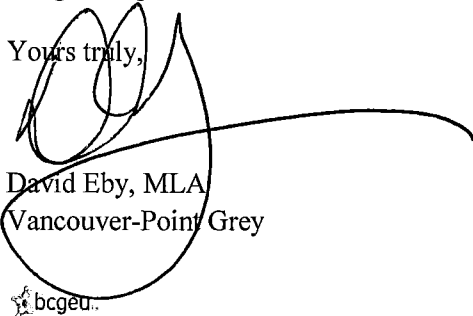
I am writing to you in the hope that CP’s actions have been the simple consequence of a large company with many moving parts inadvertently acting in a way that is threatening its community relationships. Our hope is that, now that you have some understanding of the dynamics at play, the company would take the time necessary to meet with affected neighbours in order to minimize the impacts of this recent policy change. Many involved with the gardens seem convinced that simple discussions about mitigation, undertaken in good faith, could be incredibly positive and result in a win-win for all involved.

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Until a few months ago, most in our community believed that there was some level of appreciation by CP Rail for the efforts made by volunteers to turn nuisance properties overgrown with weeds and strewn with junk into beautiful community assets available to everyone. Unfortunately, that belief that CP understood the free service from which they benefitted, and the community's understanding of CP as a responsible community member interested in its neighbours' opinions, has been severely challenged.

As this matter has considerable urgency given CP's July 31 deadline, please do not hesitate to contact me directly by e-mail (d.eby@leg.bc.ca) or phone (778 865 7997). Our office would be very happy to assist you in convening community meetings to discuss your plans and to hear from neighbours about how to mitigate impacts on our beautiful community gardens.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Eby', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Eby, MLA
Vancouver-Point Grey

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