



Province of
British Columbia
Legislative Assembly

George Heyman, MLA
Vancouver-Fairview
642 W. Broadway
V5Z 1G1



George Heyman, MLA
(Vancouver-Fairview)

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

VIA FAX: 1-403-205-9000

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-Fairview in British Columbia.

Vancouver-Fairview is home to many community gardens. These gardens are used as a way for my constituents to supplement their groceries – a low income constituent wrote to me expressing how she manages to save money on groceries by growing her own vegetables; as a way to give back to their neighbours – I spoke with the members of a community garden along the Arbutus Corridor and they informed me that these gardens are so full that they donate a generous portion to the food bank; and as a tool for teaching the younger generation about sustainable living, protecting green spaces and the importance of bees and bugs – one of the community gardens that will be affected by the CP Rail decision has a great bee population, a welcome addition to the area as bees, flies, butterflies and wasps ensure the pollination of about one-third of our food supply.

We have received phone calls and e-mails from a number of constituents who are concerned about losing a significant amount of green space in their community. The folks who have put in the effort to build their garden are angered that their hard work will go to waste, while folks who have enjoyed the gardens have let us know that the green space is a highly valued alternative to the weeds and trash that often builds up along unused tracks. In fact, the gardeners have taken pride in their work of keeping tangled shrubs from growing along the tracks and instead fostering the growth of useful plants and greenery

I have read CP's letters and reports and I understand that CP Rail has been interested in using the space near the dormant rails along the Arbutus Corridor for green space and community innovation. I assume that CP Rail does not want to bring ill to the Arbutus Corridor neighbours or harm to existing green space. With that in mind, I write today to urge you to hold off on your July 31st deadline for residents to remove their community gardens - gardens that are lush with ripe fruits and vegetables, gardens that have had months of energy and resources put into them.

Instead, I ask that you continue to seek a mutual agreement with the City of Vancouver. The adoption of the space is unique, it does not make good sense to tear it all down. I urge CP Rail to show leadership on this issue and instead of tearing down the hundreds of hours of hard work put into these gardens, to work with the Arbutus neighbours to find a mutually beneficial solution, including maintenance of this space for everyone's enjoyment.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Heyman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "G" and "H".

George Heyman, MLA
Vancouver-Fairview