



## Splatsin

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### JURISDICTIONS UNITE IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF RAIL LINE

Splatsin (Enderby, BC), Secwepemc Nation, January 25, 2016, representatives from the Regional District of the North Okanagan (RDNO), Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD), and Splatsin met earlier this month to establish a Technical Team that will continue meetings with CP Rail officials to discuss acquisition options for the remaining sections of the 50-kilometre CP Rail lands.

“We are pleased with these next steps taken toward acquiring the abandoned CP Rail lands as a contiguous corridor,” says Splatsin Chief Wayne Christian.

RDNO Chair Rick Fairbairn explains that the groups met with CP Rail officials several times over the past year and through a second MOU, the political jurisdictions are working collectively to establish the necessary structure for undertaking the acquisition of the abandoned rail line.

There is no deadline for the land deal, and a formal purchase and sale agreement for the railway lands will need to be finalized, funding approvals secured from the respective jurisdictions, and grant funding from senior levels of government will also likely need to be obtained for a viable business case.

Rhona Martin, CSRD Chair, says the Technical Team will work with CP Rail on moving forward with the purchase and developing a business model to oversee and operate the corridor on a go forward basis.

“An agreement will need to be drafted which will formalize the relationship between the partners. The agreement will address the apportionment of costs and detail the sections of the corridor each partner would be responsible for overseeing.”

While the Technical Team negotiates the agreement details, the political leadership will be embarking on a lobbying campaign with relevant senior government officials for grants funding to help defray the overall cost at the local level.

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For more information, please contact:

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## Background

*Discontinuation of the Canadian Pacific Rail line between Sicamous and Armstrong was announced in 2009. The length of the Sicamous to Armstrong corridor is approximately 50 kilometers or 31 miles and is commonly referred to as the Okanagan Subdivision. In December 2014, the Splotsin First Nation announced that it had acquired 11.7 hectares of the abandoned railway line. Shortly after the Splotsin announcement, in February 2015, Chief Wayne Christian convened a meeting with representatives from several North Okanagan local governments to discuss opportunities to work together. The meeting resulted in the Splotsin First Nation, the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO), and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) [the Parties] entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).*

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