

Cranbrook History Centre  
Cranbrook Archives, Museum and Landmark Society - 12407  
57 Van Horne St S  
Cranbrook BC  
V1C 4H9

Regional District of East Kootenay

Dear Rob Gay

**RE: Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project – Phase 2**

Since the formation of the Cranbrook Archives, Museum and Landmark Society (previously Foundation) in 1976, constructing a space to protect the unique and historically valuable collection of heritage railcars has been our most crucial goal.

The Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project is a multi-phased project to build a 30,000 SQ. FT structure which will permanently protect and make accessible the Cranbrook History Centre's (CHC) collection of 18 historic cars. In 2019, 15,600 SQ. FT was completed, covering 9 cars. Phase 2 will complete an additional 13,740 SQ. FT, protecting the cars from increasingly harsh environmental conditions and providing a fully accessible platform for the remaining 9 cars.

The Project is an important part of the CHC's collection management strategy, ensuring that the collection, and the organization itself continue to form an important and resilient part of the City of Cranbrook's local economy and historic hub.

The museum collection of 18 railcars is one of the largest in North America and many of the cars are nationally significant. The complete 7-car Trans-Canada Limited, built in 1929, was recognized by the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and given the designation of National Historic Event. Many of the cars have been almost completely restored or preserved in their original condition and designated as Canadian Cultural Property. 16 cars are currently accessible to the public through guided tours or during special events. The interiors contain examples of Canadian craftsmanship and original materials such as bed linens, and carpets. Royal BC Museum Curator Emeritus, Robert Turner compared the interior of the railcars to an art and design museum inside mechanical steel and wood shells.

Beyond the physical character-defining elements, the railcar collection tells diverse stories of communities impacted by the railway. To travel as a first-class passenger, immigrate across Canada, work in the freezing conditions of a caboose or be part of an Indigenous community pushed out by the railway's expansion are experiences preserved by the physical collection. Maintaining a link to this part of our past will help to strengthen our own and other British Columbians' understanding of the role of the railway in shaping our shared identity.

Current measures for preserving this legacy are short-term, temporary, and unsustainable, having their own negative impact on the character-defining features of the cars. Phase 2 of the Heritage Railcar Preservation Project will provide long-term protection for this valuable collection and display the cars in a structure that is not only functional but will also contribute towards the goal of becoming financially and environmentally sustainable. The building itself will showcase the capabilities of our community's skilled workforce while reducing the museum's power consumption and costs with the installation of green infrastructure. As a landmark building, it will be a source of community pride, help attract residents and visitors to the museum, and provide a highly visible example of the unique craftsmanship involved in constructing large timber frame structures.

Once the CHC's fragile and challenging railcar collection is protected, the organization will be able to redirect its resources towards stimulating partnerships with marginalized communities, local businesses and other non-profits through enhanced programming and marketing. Expanding the range of opportunities available at the museum will assist economic recovery in the community and support long-term growth of tourism in the East Kootenay. Local businesses and organizations will be encouraged to share the benefits of the new infrastructure.

A significant investment has already been made by the community. Over 10 years, three million dollars was raised for the restoration of the seven car Trans-Canada Limited. This was almost entirely through the generosity of local contributors. By investing in a dedicated building for the long-term preservation of the collection, the CHC is committing to the continued care of these community assets.

In February, 2022, the second phase of the Project received \$289,520.00 in funding from Heritage BC's 150 Time Immemorial Grant. A donation of \$250,000 from the RDEK's Community Works Fund would provide a significant portion of the funds needed to begin construction and help to leverage funding for the remainder. As partners in supporting the community, the Cranbrook History Centre would like to request the financial support of the Regional District of East Kootenay for Phase 2 of the Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project.

Included with this letter is the full Phase 2 Project Budget, Project Milestones and Timeline document, and Letters of Support from our other community supporters.

We would welcome the opportunity to appear as a delegation to the Board to provide further information and answer any questions and also invite the Board to visit the Cranbrook History to see first-hand what has been accomplished to date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Whetham".

Bob Whetham, CAMAL Board Chair



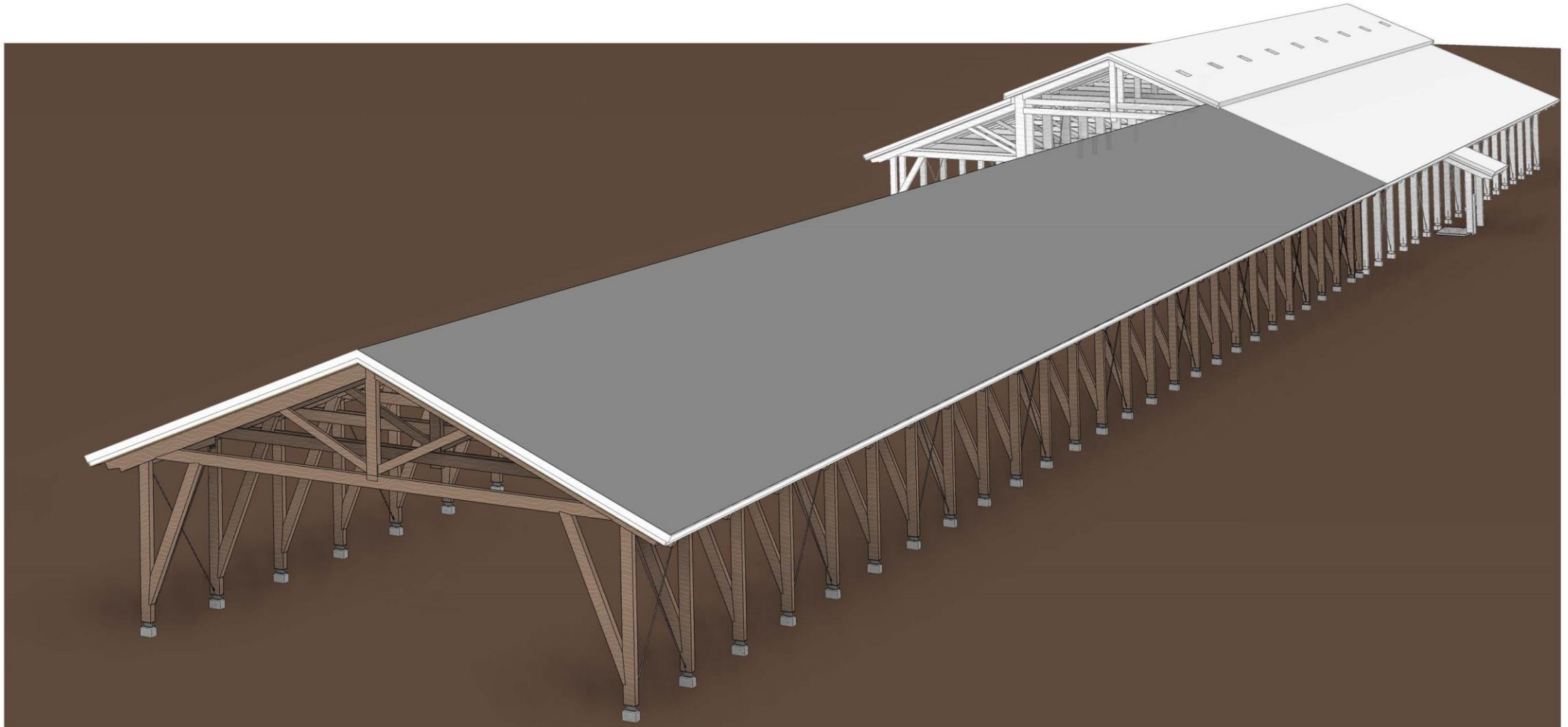


# Unprotected Railcar Collection at the Cranbrook History Centre

June 2019

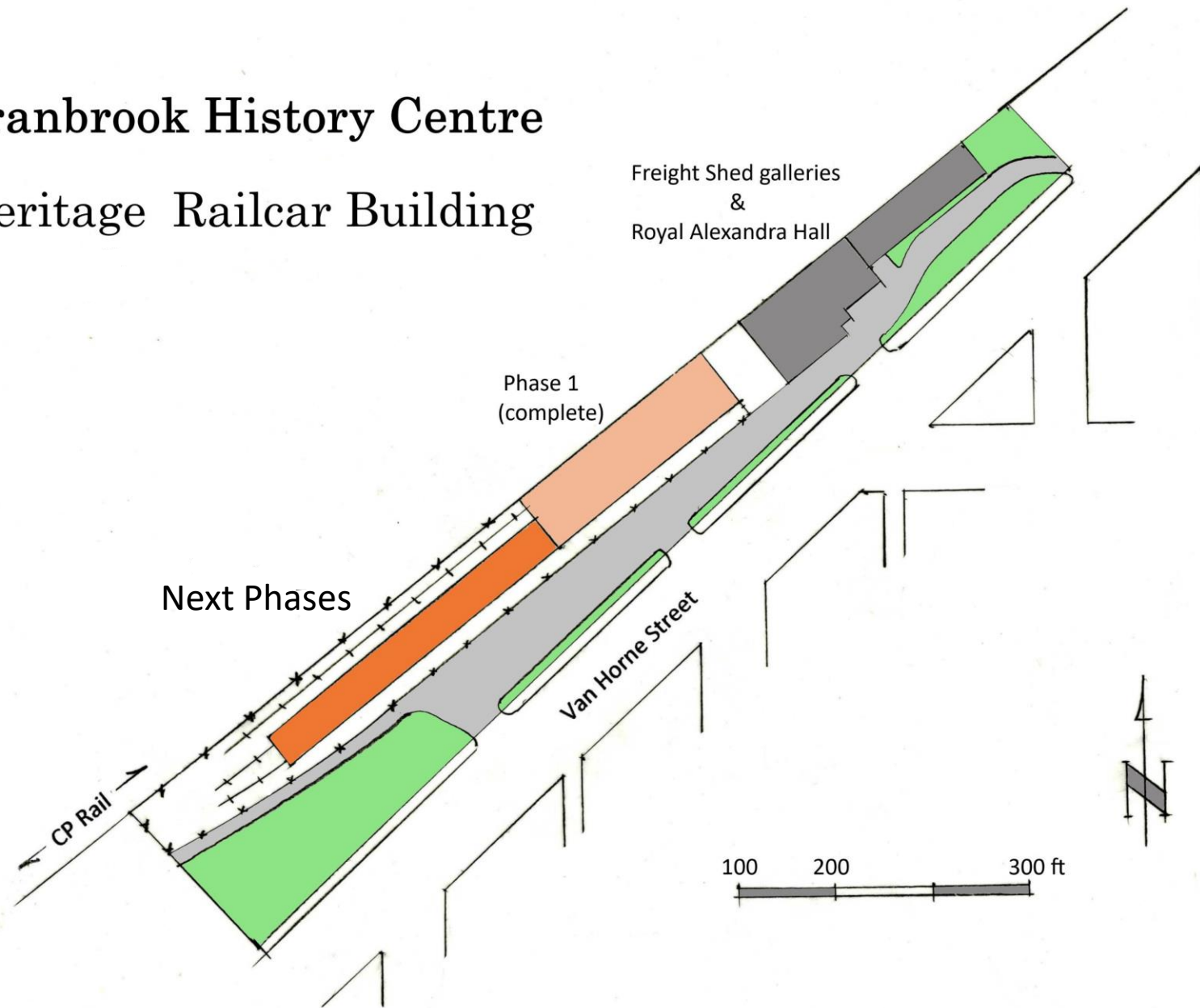


## Next section of the Heritage Railcar Preservation Building



# Cranbrook History Centre

## Heritage Railcar Building





# Phase 1 of the Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project

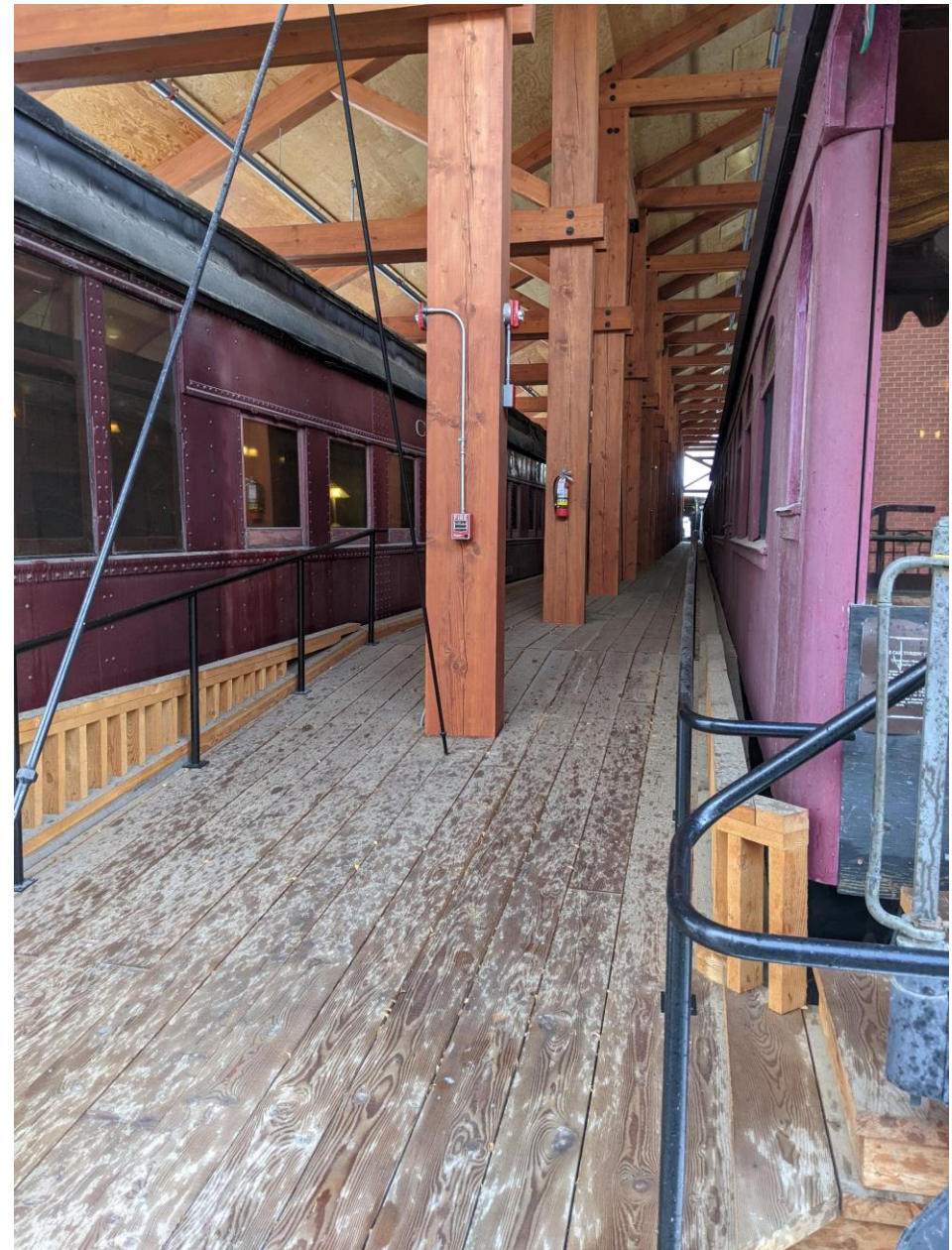
June 2019







Old Platform to be demolished in Phase 2



Phase 1 Platform completed with ramp and railings

## Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project - Phase 2

### Project Budget - Steel & Wood Cost Comparison

EXPENDITURES	ITEM	QUANTITY	WOOD	STEEL
<i>Main Project Expenses</i>	Foundation Footings	76	\$88,312.00	\$88,312.00
	Steel Roof and Supports	13740 SQ. FT		\$400,000.00
	Roof	13740 SQ. FT	\$480,513.00	
	Framing	13740 SQ. FT	\$750,117.00	
	Electrical Upgrades		\$65,402.00	\$65,402.00
	Sprinkler System	13740 SQ. FT	\$62,325.00	\$62,325.00
	Accessible Platform and Ramps		\$101,018.00	\$101,018.00
	Alarm System (Fire)		\$40,200.00	\$40,200.00
	New Washroom Construction and Plumbing		\$50,400.00	\$50,400.00
		SUBTOTAL	\$1,638,287.00	\$807,657.00
<i>Other Project Costs</i>	Demolition of old platform		\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
	Signage (replacing interpretation on old platform)		\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
	Building Permit		\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
	Additional Engineering		\$12,200.00	\$12,200.00
	Project Management		\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00
	Contingency	15%	\$258,148.00	\$133,554.00
		SUBTOTAL	\$340,848.00	\$216,254.00
		<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>\$1,979,135.00</b>	<b>\$1,023,911.00</b>
REVENUE	~	~	AMOUNT	NOTES
<i>Confirmed</i>	Heritage BC 150 TIGP		\$289,520.00	
	Cranbrook History Centre Fundraising Goal		\$150,000.00	
	In-Kind		\$42,000.00	
		SUBTOTAL	\$481,520.00	
<i>Requested</i>	Regional District of the East Kootenay		\$250,000.00	
	BC Gaming, Capital Projects		\$250,000.00	
	North American Railway Foundation		\$100,000.00	
	Canadian Cultural Spaces Fund		\$900,000.00	
		SUBTOTAL	\$1,500,000.00	
		<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>	<b>\$1,981,520.00</b>	



# Raise the Roof - Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project

## Milestones

2017

- Groundbreaking of Phase 1 of the HRPB.

2018

- 15,600sq. ft. roof, platform, and sprinkler system building complete.

2019

- New sprinkler system complete.

2020 – Covid 19 pandemic

- Funding Application to Heritage BC's Community Economic Recovery Program Grant for Phase 2 rejected.

2021 – Covid 19 pandemic

- Accessible courtyard completed between the main museum building and Phase 1 of HRPB. Funding for the specific project provided by Service Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund.
- Final occupancy permit approved for Phase 1 by the City of Cranbrook.

2022

- Funding Application to Heritage BC's Time Immemorial Grant for Phase 2 approved.

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## Timeline

(Subject to funding, labor, and material availability)

2022

- Deaccessioned Railcars move off site.
- Remaining Railcars move into final position.
- Project Manager engaged.
- Project goes to Tender.
- Major off-site fabrication for roof begins.

2023

- Solar panel array on phase 1 roof complete.
- 6960 SQ. FT of the roof complete.
- 3480 SQ. FT of the accessible raised platform complete.
- Accessible lower platform complete.

- Upgraded signage and interpretation plan complete.

2024

- Remaining 7440sq. ft of roof complete.
- Washrooms, lighting, alarm system, and sprinkler system complete.

2025

- Work on Solar panel array on phase 2 roof complete.





December 20, 2021

File No: 0530.04

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Cranbrook History Centre – Heritage Rail Car Preservation Building Project**

The Cranbrook History Centre has requested my support of the Cranbrook Archives, Museum and Landmark Foundation (CAMAL) in their ongoing efforts in securing grant funding for the Heritage Rail Car Preservation Building Project.

The Cranbrook History Centre is an important venue to preserving and presenting not only the heritage and history of the region, but also of the City of Cranbrook itself. We pride ourselves in being able to provide support to this organization to help make these collections available and accessible to the public, while assisting in helping preserve rapidly disappearing historical resources.

This Heritage Rail Car Preservation Building Project is important in that it would assist in sustaining the preservation of the significant collection of rail cars currently in residence in Cranbrook, including a number of one-of-a-kind CPR, Soo Spokane and CNR Heritage Deluxe Rails Cars, dating back to the 1870's.

I fully support the efforts of the Cranbrook History Centre and the Cranbrook Archives, Museum and Landmark Foundation (CAMAL) in their ongoing fundraising efforts and search for grant application opportunities for this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee Pratt".

Lee Pratt, Mayor  
City of Cranbrook

LP/kt



Ktunaxa Nation Council  
7825 Mission Road  
Cranbrook, BC V1C 7E5  
tel: 250-489-2464  
fax: 250-489-2438

*visit us at:*  
**www.ktunaxa.org**

December 21, 2021

Cranbrook History Centre  
57 Van Horne St S  
Cranbrook BC  
V1C 4H9  
VIA EMAIL

**Re:** Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Phase 2 application

We are pleased to provide this letter expressing our support on the application for the Heritage Railcar Preservation Building that will enhance our relationship. As heritage tourism continues to thrive, its value as an economic generator for small communities throughout the Region will also increase.

We look forward to engaging on other opportunities that may present themselves as well, in the hopes of sharing the Ktunaxa story through our continued relationship.

Thank you.

**KTUNAXA NATION COUNCIL**



Janice Alpine  
Economic and Investment Sector  
Tourism Engagement

*Takisqnuuk*

*Taqam*

*Lower Kootenay*

*Tobacco Plains*



RE: Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project - Phase 2

December 20, 2021

To Whom It May Concern;

On behalf of the Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies (CFKR), I am very pleased to lend my full support to the Cranbrook History Centre's Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project – Phase 2.

CFKR is honoured to work with the Cranbrook History Centre whenever the opportunity arises, including CFKR's stewardship of the Cranbrook History Centre's endowment fund as well as the Cranbrook History Centre's involvement in CFKR's Community Calendar.

The 19 historic railcars curated and preserved by the Cranbrook History Centre are invaluable treasures for local residents and visitors to enjoy. These railcars are an important historical resource for the East Kootenay, British Columbia, and Canada. CFKR applauds the Cranbrook History Centre's success in permanently protecting nine of the railcars through the first phase of the Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project. It is imperative that the remaining 10 railcars be protected from the elements, as well.

In addition to preserving these important historical artifacts, this project will also stimulate partnerships, enhance tourism in the region, and support the Cranbrook History Centre's on-going interpretation and educational programs.

I commend the Cranbrook History Centre's dedication to preserving this important part of our shared history, now and for future generations, through the completion of the Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project – Phase 2.

Sincerely,



Lynnette Wray, M.Ed.  
Executive Director



Cranbrook Tourism  
PO Box 103, Cranbrook, BC  
V1C 4H6

December 14, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

**RE: Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project Phase 2**

The Cranbrook History Centre and CAMAL Board have done extraordinary work in recent years to display, preserve, and celebrate the history of Cranbrook and Canadian rail travel. The Cranbrook History Centre is a landmark site serving as a repository for the history of Cranbrook and the East Kootenay region for the enjoyment and education of residents and visitors alike.

As home to a collection of 19 historic railcars, unparalleled by other collections in North America, the site and its artifacts are a unique and distinctive asset to our regional community and our destination appeal. For many years the railcars have been exposed to the harsh East Kootenay environment, and the importance of preserving these important historic artifacts is becoming more urgent. In 2019 the first phase of the Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project was completed, permanently protecting 9 of the railcars. Without this dramatic intervention, the cars would have continued to deteriorate, and a significant piece of history would have been lost. 10 cars are still to be protected.

Not only will Phase 2 serve to preserve the trains, but completion of this project will preserve Cranbrook's story as a community built around the railroad. We feel the importance of protecting this anchor attraction and destination lure is important to our community and visitor economy. I commend the Cranbrook History Centre's passion, commitment and efforts to keep history and heritage alive, for future generations and give my full support to their railcar preservation project.

Sincerely,

Kristy Jahn-Smith  
Executive Director  
Cranbrook Tourism





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
of BRITISH COLUMBIA



Tom Shypitka, MLA  
Kootenay East

December 14, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

RE: Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project Phase 2

I am pleased to write a letter of support for the Cranbrook History Centre in their application for a grant to build a roof over the remaining 10 unprotected cars at the Centre.

Not only will the continuation of the Project serve to preserve the trains, but will support the local community, stimulate partnerships, regenerate tourism in the Kootenays, and allow for the development of accessible interpretation and education programs.

I commend the Cranbrook History Centre's passion, commitment and efforts to keep history and heritage alive, for future generations to come. I give my support towards their Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project.

Sincerely,

Tom Shypitka  
MLA for Kootenay East



## ROB MORRISON

Member of Parliament  
Kootenay–Columbia

To Whom it May Concern,

RE: Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project Phase 2

The Cranbrook History Centre and CAMAL Board have worked tirelessly in recent years to create a destination where Cranbrook's history can be displayed, preserved, and celebrated. The Cranbrook History Centre is now a landmark site which serves as a repository for the history of Cranbrook and the East Kootenay region for all visitors and locals to explore and discover.

The Cranbrook History Centre is home to a collection of 19 historic railcars which allow visitors to experience over 150 years of Canadian history. Its collection is one of a kind and is unparalleled in North America. Since they arrived at the museum, the railcars have been exposed to the harsh East Kootenay environment, which is continuing to become more extreme. In 2019 the first phase of the Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project was completed, permanently protecting 9 of the railcars. Without this dramatic intervention, the cars would have continued to deteriorate, and a significant piece of history would have been lost. 10 cars are still to be protected.

Not only will the continuation of the Project serve to preserve the trains, but will support the local community, stimulate partnerships, regenerate tourism in the Kootenays, and allow for the development of accessible interpretation and education programs. Once complete the Project will be a site to congregate, create, and strengthen links between diverse communities in the region.

I commend the Cranbrook History Centre's passion, commitment, and efforts to keep history and heritage alive, for future generations to come. I give my support towards their Heritage Railcar Preservation Building Project.

Respectfully,

Rob Morrison, M.P.  
Kootenay–Columbia

