



NEWS RELEASE

August 5, 2022

\$12.5 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT APPROVED FOR RAIL TRAIL PROJECT

Enderby, BC – Splat'sin has been awarded a \$12.5 million Infrastructure Canada Active Transportation Grant to develop 42.6 kilometres of the Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail. This initiative has been championed by Splat'sin leadership, in partnership with the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD).

As per the terms outlined in the program Terms and Conditions, **Canada will support up to 100% of the total eligible costs to a maximum federal contribution of \$12,539,445.** Funding from all government sources cannot exceed 100% of the Project's total eligible costs.

This funding will cover trail development within Splat'sin to Secwépemc territory from Kilometre 0 at the Bruhn Bridge in Sicamous to Kilometre 42.6 near Stepney Road in the Township of Spallumcheen.

The Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail is a non-motorized recreational pathway that will create an active transportation corridor for walking and bicycling between Sicamous and the Township of Spallumcheen. The project will create new tourism and transportation benefits for the region – including the eventual linkage with the recently opened Okanagan Rail Trail and 200 km south to Osoyoos.





NEWS RELEASE

“This is very exciting news! The significant funding provided by the Canada Federal Active Transportation Grant will enable the construction of the Rail Trail to be completed **as soon as possible**,” stated **Kukpi7 Doug Thomas**. “The Rail Trail itself will be a boon to our community, providing economic benefits to the region, while promoting healthy lifestyles, family outings, and the appreciation of nature and knowledge of the land. It will also connect people to Secwépemc values and culture.”



Plans for the project include conducting archeological impact assessments, trail clearing, site preparation and construction with a gravel-based surface, parking areas, fencing, shoreline protection, as well as signage and drainage improvements.

The total length of the Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail is 50 kilometres, however, the final 7.4-kilometre section near Armstrong was not included as part of this grant application. It will be considered for other grant applications in the future.

Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail Vision

To protect environmental, agricultural, and Secwépemc cultural values, and create tourism and transportation benefits for the region, through the development of the entire abandoned Sicamous to Armstrong rail corridor as a continuous non-motorized greenway for walking & cycling – and to link with the Vernon-Kelowna rail-trail greenway and 200 km south to Osoyoos to realize the full tourism value of this unprecedented opportunity. shuswapnorthokanaganrailtrail.ca

**For further information please contact Ken Barnes, Splatsin Communications Specialist,
at (250) 801-8256 or email ken.barnes@splatsin.ca.**