

Dear Rod,

This morning we sent [a letter to Premier Horgan](#) on behalf of 25 recreation, tourism and cultural organizations representing together more than 2,000 members and businesses. In this letter we asked for a \$4 million increase to Recreation Sites and Trails BC's annual operating budget.

And here's why:

As the pandemic has increased society-wide anxiety and forced us to socially-distance, the outdoors has helped sustain our physical and mental well-being.

BC is home to a vast network of trails and recreation sites on Crown land outside of the provincial park system that brings direct benefits to all British Columbians and to our communities in the form of health and wellness, social connection, environmental awareness, rural economic development and Indigenous reconciliation.

This recreation system is managed by [Recreation Sites and Trails BC \(RSTBC\)](#), a small provincial agency under the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, in partnership with hundreds of community trail groups, First Nations and local governments.

Unfortunately, this cherished recreation system has been broken for quite some time now. Decades of chronic underfunding have left us with overburdened trail networks, recreation sites that have fallen into disrepair, cultural and environmental damage, a huge backlog of deferred maintenance, too few staff, and volunteer groups who are burnt out by the sheer volume of work and a lack of support.

[Help us advocate for a much-needed budget increase to RSTBC so they are able to keep up with the continued growth in outdoor recreation in the new post-pandemic 'normal'. Join us right now in asking the province for a modest \\$4 million boost in RSTBC's annual operating budget to \\$12.5 million.](#)

Click the button below to use our instant letter writing tool to contact your local MLA. We've provided a template you can use, though personalizing your letter triples the impact. If you like, add a personal note sharing why BC's trails and recreation sites are important to you.

[TAKE ACTION](#)

This crucial funding boost will increase RSTBC's capacity, with support from volunteers and community groups, to tackle the significant backlog of deferred maintenance, provide essential

facilities such as outhouse and wildlife-proof garbage containers, and restore neglected road access to trailheads.

Thank you for speaking up for outdoor recreation in BC and for showing the BC Government that there's broad support among British Columbians for an overdue uplift in operational funding for RSTBC.

Louise Pedersen
Executive Director

PS: Please ask others to add their voice too by sharing this email with your friends and network.