



January 28, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

**Re: The Yarrow Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of BC's [BCHBC] proposal for a Legacy Project to help celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

I am writing on behalf of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC [FMCBC]. Our organization promotes self-propelled backcountry recreation such as, but not limited to, hiking, backpacking, and mountaineering. Our organization works to protect and maintain access for quality non-motorized recreation in BC's wilderness, on Crown land and within BC Parks. A large part of this access involves the regular maintenance and stewardship of BC's historic trails.

The Dewdney Trail, in Manning park, is one such trail. It provides valuable access to a large protected wilderness and connects to several other trails with historic value including the Whatcom, Warburton, and HBC Brigade Trails. These historical values include those values important to First Nations people and the Province of BC. Improved conditions along this trail will improve safe use, and enhance recreation. Educational opportunities will also be gained by fostering an improved understanding of First Nations and our society's present values.

The current conditions on the Dewdney trail are such that significant trail work is required along its length. This trail work could include bridge repair, improved signage, and dead fall removal and brushing. This view is informed by my own trail use and reports from FMCBC member clubs.

Current economic conditions and government funding priorities are such that non-profit groups such as the Yarrow Chapter, BCHBC find it difficult to secure adequate funding for the projects they undertake.

The successful completion of this Legacy 150 project will benefit not only the BCHBC, but other user groups and individuals from local communities and the Province, as well as visitors from other regions of Canada and international destinations. Local communities stand to see an increasing economic benefit as increasing numbers of trail users access services travelling from home to trailhead.

Trailhead access to the Dewdney Trail is provided by an all weather paved highway [Prov. Highway #3], and the trails accessed from this highway are seeing increasing use due to increasing populations in Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, and Southern Interior. The completion of this proposed project will help ensure that the Dewdney Trail and other historic trails that it provides



## Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Accessing the backcountry one step at a time

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access to are better able to absorb increased use while at the same time ensuring that the environment the trail traverses does not become degraded.

I have had the pleasure to work with members of the Yarrow Chapter, BCHBC for several years and have found them, without exception to be a dedicated, committed organization, with a good ability to assess their own limitations and ability to bring projects to completion. I have every confidence that given adequate funding they are fully capable of bringing this project to completion as outlined in their proposal!

Thank-you for taking the time to read this letter, and considering the Yarrow Chapter, BCHBC request for funding.

Sincerely,

Dave Wharton, President,  
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC