



July 4, 2024

To Whom it may concern:

We are writing this letter in support of Burnaby Horsemen's Association and their concern for the planned paving to be completed within Burnaby Regional Park. The unique geographic location of Burnaby Horsemen's Association allows equestrians not only to have their horses close to home but to have access to trails. We know the importance of promoting active transportation, but we also know that paving these trails would negatively impact the horse community in Burnaby.

Horse Council BC is a 25,000 plus Provincial Sport and Member Service Organization; our mission is to work together on behalf of equestrian sport and the interests of our membership. We collaborate with individuals, other equine associations, businesses, industry professionals, and government to strengthen communication, education, access, and safety related to horses. We strive to preserve and enhance equestrian use of public lands and historic trails and to promote and foster participation in all equine activity. Additionally, all Horse Council BC members have \$5 million of third-party liability insurance relating to their horses as a risk management provision.

The horse industry in BC is an economic driver and shows robust health and social benefits. Our current data shows that 2473 of our members reside in the Vancouver Sunshine Coast region. In our 2019 Equine Industry Economic Impact Study found that horses generate an estimated \$780 million economic activity in BC with an estimated 5620 full time equivalent jobs supported by the industry. In terms of health and social benefit the BC Therapeutic Riding Association shows an estimated 1,226 participants in BC are serviced annually in equine related therapeutic activities.

Pavement is not the ideal surface for horses to be ridden on. If a horse is spooked and moves quickly on this surface there is a high probability they will slip and could lead to injury of horse and rider. Winter weather and horses that wear shoes will also enhance the risk of an accident occurring. We support the Burnaby Horseman's Association request to stop paving these trails, and we request that the City of Burnaby reopen the consultation to find a workable solution for all parties.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our concerns for the equestrians that use the trails in Burnaby Lake Regional Park. If you have any questions, please contact me at 1-800-345-8055 ext. 1009, or at recreation@hcbc.ca.

Sincerely,

Sarah Allison

Advisor, Recreation Services



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