

## **CARD #17**

### **RAISING PRIVATE FUNDS**

- Broad Public Support
- Bottom-up meets Top-down
- Charitable Donations Depository
- Our Expectations

## **DETAIL SCRIPT FOR #17**

### **RAISING PRIVATE FUNDS**

As advocates for RR, we are now of the opinion that there is broad public support on the Semiahmoo Peninsula for this Rail Relocation. The most recent demonstration of this was the September 2018 public forum called by then WR mayor Wayne Baldwin, which upon 3 days only notice, attracted approximately 200 participants. Speakers were then WR Councillor Grant Meyer [chair], then WR Mayor Wayne Baldwin, local BC-MLA Tracy Redies, Federal local MP Gordie Hogg, long-time rail safety advocate Erik Seiz, and Mary-Jane Bennett, transportation consultant/journalist. It was clear from the writer's advocacy viewpoint, that energy in the room was positive, that over 90% of those in attendance were in support of Rail Relocation, and that all were thirsty for more information. For a more detailed look at the above, see PA News [link here](#)

Previous multi-pronged advocacy efforts of the past six years have concentrated on reaching politicians at the highest levels, in what we might describe as a top-down approach. While this has for the most part been successful, we welcomed the idea of grass roots efforts, what we might describe as bottom-up approaches. Energy and enthusiasm from every-day citizens and influential community organizations may well add voices to our long-standing advocacy efforts, and encourage healthy and prosperous conversations and advancements of this Semiahmoo Peninsula RR initiative.

We believe now there are many people on the Semiahmoo Peninsula, and possibly beyond, who are prepared to donate to a fund set up specifically to complete funding for the 'alignment study'. The previous card #13 has suggested a breakdown of funds from various stakeholders to complete all funding for the alignment study; the total required is \$900,000 while the amount from 'private + other' is \$200,000. Criteria that we believe are necessary to satisfy potential private donors are credibility, trust, simplicity, low to zero administration costs, and charitable status for tax purposes. All of these criteria appear to be satisfied by using the City of Surrey as a 'charitable donations depository' through the Canada Revenue Agency [the City of Surrey is listed and is eligible]; see CRA [link here](#) ; we will make a formal arrangement and list on this website, as soon as possible.

Our expectations are to collect \$200,000 from private donations by June 30th, 2020. If the alignment study is not then started by October 1st, 2020, then any funds collected from private donors would be returned before the end of 2020. Please note there will be NO administrative deductions for any donations made, which is to say that 100% of monies donated will go directly to the 'alignment fund' charitable donations depository.