



January 27, 2023

Dr. Sonya Richmond  
4870 Eagleview Rd.  
Sechelt, BC V7Z 0G2  
Via email c/o [JamesPotterRichmond@outlook.com](mailto:JamesPotterRichmond@outlook.com)

Dear Sonya,

I'm writing as the President of BC Nature to congratulate you and your hiking partner Sean Morton on your amazing achievement in hiking the complete Trans Canada Trail from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island. BC Nature is a federation of 55 naturalist clubs across British Columbia including more than 6,000 members. You might recall that I met you when you and Sean gave a presentation to the Nicola Naturalist Society in Merritt last fall.

Our naturalist federation includes many people who spend much of their time on outdoor activities and we are therefore fully aware and in awe of the stress and demands that such an arduous hike involves. That you were able to maintain blogs, post photos, and meet with numerous groups along the way increases our appreciation of your achievement.

In addition to the demanding task of just hiking those thousands of kilometres, you ensured that nature-lovers across the country were able to follow your travels and increase our knowledge and appreciation of the wonderful nature across Canada. We particularly applaud your efforts to reach out to younger Canadians, such as the NatureKids BC clubs that you met with along the way. We share your belief that it is only by educating and nurturing children in nature that our planet's biodiversity and human health can be sustained in future.

We also greatly appreciate that you and Sean were committed to taking time off from your professional careers to undertake this epic venture. Having a highly-trained biologist and a professional photographer as a team ensured that you were able to provide your followers with excellent information and photos of the wildlife, environments and scenery that you passed. You are among the very few people who have experienced so much of the back-country of Canada and we look forward to seeing more of your writing and photos from your cross-country hike.

Congratulations and thank you both for undertaking and completing this formidable project. I look forward to hearing about future ventures.

Yours truly,

Alan E. Burger, PhD  
President, BC Nature  
(Federation of BC Naturalists)