

Island Rail Corporation Announces Dr. Matt Vickers as Chairman of the Board

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Victoria, British Columbia Jul 29, 2025 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.IssueWire.com)) - Island Rail Corporation Welcomes Dr. Matt Vickers, CET, LL.D., as Chairman of the Board

Island Rail Corporation (IRC) is honoured and delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Matt Vickers as Chairman of the Board. A distinguished Indigenous business leader and policy expert, Dr. Vickers brings decades of experience in economic development, Indigenous reconciliation, and government relations. With lineage from the Tsimshian Nation, Gitxaala, and the Heiltsuk Nation, Bella Bella, Dr. Vickers holds Honorary Doctor of Laws Degrees from two universities. He is a former Senior Manager with the Royal Bank and Partner with MNP and has advised First Nations and governments across Canada and internationally. Currently Owner and CEO of Vickers & Associates and Co-Chair of Honouring Nations Canada (Fulbright Canada), he is widely recognized for his leadership in Indigenous economics, inclusive governance, and workplace diversity, and has received numerous awards for his business leadership, advocacy, and support for workplace diversity.

Dr. Vickers' appointment marks a significant milestone for IRC, as the company continues to advance a new railway on Vancouver Island: building a modern, sustainable, inclusive, and profitable rail system. IRC is committed to meaningful Indigenous partnership and governance as it advances transportation solutions that prioritize environmental sustainability, community well-being, and long-term economic growth. IRC also acknowledges Island Corridor Foundation (ICF) ownership and management of the entire Island Rail Corridor, and we trust ICF and IRC can work together for the benefit of all to fulfill and realize the original ICF vision, by rebuilding the railway within the corridor (and beyond) while ensuring the fourteen First Nations' concerns are met, and that they own a minimum 51% of the private corporation that will build, own, and operate this rebuilt modern rail system on Vancouver Island.

IRC is leading the charge in delivering low-emission, state-of-the-art rail solutions tailored to the needs of Vancouver Island. As part of its mandate, the company is focused on collaborative development, energy efficiency, and inclusive economic opportunity—values reflected in Dr. Vickers' lifelong work.

In accepting the role of Chairman, Dr. Vickers shared the following: "I'm thankful for the opportunity with Island Rail Corporation (IRC), which is committed to ensuring the fourteen directly affected First Nations

hold a minimum 51% equity/revenue share in this major Island initiative. IRC's mandate is to help 'make a wrong right' through this rail project. As always, I approach this responsibility with humility, integrity, and deep respect for all the communities we serve in the corridor."

Dr. Vickers' appointment marks a meaningful milestone for IRC as we pursue a bold, inclusive vision: a world-class, sustainable rail network rooted in Indigenous ownership, community prosperity, and environmental responsibility. His wisdom and values-based leadership will help

guide us forward—grounded in truth, justice, and economic transformation. IRC is a firm believer that we need to change reconciliation to reconciliation.

About Island Rail Corporation (IRC):

IRC is an Indigenous-led transportation initiative committed to restoring and revitalizing both freight and passenger rail on Vancouver Island through sustainable technology and equitable development. In partnership with Indigenous communities, government, and industry, IRC is working to build a railway system that reflects the Island's values, priorities, and future.

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