

CN RAIL BRIDGE MALFUNCTION RAISES MANY QUESTIONS

Dear Editor:

*RE: Rail Bridge Malfunction Halts Shipping
Traffic, March 4 news story*

CN's single-track, Second Narrows Bridge crossing Burrard Inlet was 'stuck' in the down position for about four days at the end of February. The problem left ships stranded on both sides of the bridge.

Unasked is what would happen if the bridge was stuck in the open position, forcing CN to hold trains until repairs were completed? Depending on the bridge closure's length and as rail traffic backs up, CPKC could also be affected, due to track sharing in the Fraser Canyon.

CN states that 43 million tonnes, or about 1/3 of the cargo that moves through the port each year, uses the Second Narrows Bridge, so delays at it have a major economic impact.

This possibility clearly shows the need for the BC Rail corridor to be retained as a resiliency option, allowing cargo to reach the North Vancouver terminals if/when the Second Narrows Bridge is unavailable.

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