



July 7, 2025

Dear Cliff McNeil-Smith,

Thank you for writing to our President and CEO, Nicolas Jimenez, with your concerns regarding home porting Island Class vessels at Crofton terminal. He has asked that Customer Relations respond on his behalf.

When the two Island Class vessels go into service by 2027, both will be homeported in Crofton to improve crew recruitment and retention. This change will help address long-standing staffing issues on Salt Spring Island, where hiring and retention have been challenging, in part due to housing availability and affordability. Vancouver Island offers a larger recruitment pool and greater housing availability, making it easier to attract and retain crew.

We recognize the impact moving the home port may have on employees living on Salt Spring, and on the island community. All existing crew on Salt Spring will have job opportunities, and additional positions were posted in spring 2025, providing time for staff hiring and transitions by 2027 when new vessels are in place. BC Ferries is working closely with employees and the union to ensure a smooth transition. We have seen a number of employees already accept jobs where they will commute to Crofton to start their day.

We will continue to collaborate and engage with interested and impacted groups to ensure impacts to neighbourhoods are minimized as much as possible, while maintaining safe and reliable ferry service.

We value your feedback and thank you for taking the time to share it. We look forward to serving Salt Spring Island with two ship service.

Kind regards,

Lisa Dondale
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Customer Care

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