



Making a difference...together

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September 28, 2026

File: 0400-40

The Honourable Gregor Robertson
Minister of Housing and Infrastructure
Via email: gregor.robertson@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Robertson:

RE: EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR BC FERRIES

On behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, I write to advocate for equitable federal funding support for BC Ferries, recognizing its essential role in connecting coastal communities and supporting the social and economic well-being of British Columbians (BC).

BC Ferries is an essential transportation service that connects people, goods, and services across coastal BC. For many communities, ferry service is not optional but a critical lifeline that provides access to employment, healthcare, education, tourism, businesses, and essential supply chains and is critical to the economic and social wellbeing of our region.

The CRD Board is concerned about the disparity in federal support provided to Canada's ferry systems. Marine Atlantic receives substantial ongoing federal operating and capital funding. By comparison, federal contributions to BC Ferries account for only approximately 3% of annual operating costs, despite the critical role BC's ferry system plays in connecting communities, supporting trade, and sustaining regional economies.

As BC Ferries faces increasing operating pressures, growing demand, and significant vessel and terminal renewal requirements, equitable federal investment is needed to help ensure that ferry services remain reliable and affordable for the communities that depend on them. Without additional long-term funding, ferry users may face significant fare increases in coming years. BC Ferries is already projecting a 30% increase in fares will occur in 2028 to manage operating and capital costs.

As BC Ferries and the British Columbia Ferry Commission plan for the next performance term, we believe this is an important opportunity for the federal government to work with provincial partners to address long-term funding needs. The CRD Board respectfully requests that the Government of Canada work with the Province of BC to ensure BC Ferries has access to appropriate federal funding programs and investment opportunities that recognize the ferry system's importance to British Columbians.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. We appreciate your commitment to strengthening Canada's infrastructure systems and encourage the Government of Canada to advance a more equitable federal funding approach that recognizes BC Ferries as critical transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Cliff McNeil-Smith'.

Cliff McNeil-Smith
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board
 Gord Johns, MP Courtenay-Alberni
 Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD