



Making a difference...together

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March 24, 2025

File: 0400-20

BC Ferries
Suite 500, 1321 Blanshard Street
Victoria BC V8W 0B7
Via email: Nicolas.Jimenez@bcferries.com

Attention: Nicolas Jimenez, President and Chief Executive Officer

Dear Nicolas Jimenez:

RE: BC FERRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEES

I write on behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, to request the reinstatement of the Ferry Advisory Committees (FACs) or the establishment of similar engagement opportunities for Salt Spring Island (SSI) and the Southern Gulf Islands (SGI). These communities depend heavily on BC Ferries for transportation, economic activity, and quality of life, and the FACs have historically provided an essential forum for dialogue between island residents and BC Ferries.

The recent discontinuation of the FACs has raised concerns among residents and the Electoral Area Directors in these areas about the loss of a structured avenue for sharing feedback and discussing ferry service issues. As you know, the ferry routes serving SSI and SGI are lifelines for these communities, and ensuring timely, reliable, and well-communicated service is crucial for their well-being. With the current challenges in ferry schedules, capacity limitations, and rising fares, it is more important than ever to have a forum for regular and meaningful consultation with local stakeholders.

We acknowledge that BC Ferries is currently conducting a public engagement process, which runs until the end of May 2025, and appreciate your efforts to gather input and involve the public in decision-making regarding ferry services. As part of this process, we believe that reinstating the FACs, or implementing a similar consultative mechanism, would be a positive outcome that ensures the voices of island residents, businesses, and local governments are heard.

The CRD Board urges BC Ferries to reinstate the FACs or create an alternative engagement structure to ensure sustained dialogue and partnership with island communities over the long term.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter further and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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

Cliff McNeil-Smith
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD