



September 9, 2020

Peter Luckham, Chair
Islands Trust Council
1627 Fort Street, Suite 200
Victoria BC V8R 1H8

Reference: 295606
Your File: 5595-30 BC Ferries

Dear Chair Luckham,

Re: BC Ferries

Thank you for your letter of July 30, 2020, regarding BC Ferries service levels in the Islands Trust area. I am sorry it has taken me so long to reply.

I agree that ferries are an essential service and a key part of the social and economic needs of our coastal communities, and our priority is ensuring reliable ferry service is there for coastal communities as we proceed with a slow and safe restart in British Columbia.

As you know, the ministry provided \$180,000 to BC Ferries to support the continuation of BC Ferries' discretionary sailings through to September 7. You may have heard by now that B.C. Ferries will be continuing these sailings until March 2021. I am pleased we reached an agreement with BC Ferries, and that they will continue to provide these critical services for coastal communities.

We were also able secure BC Ferries' eligibility for relief funding under the transit funding envelope of the 50/50 cost-share [Safe Restart Agreement](#) between the provincial and federal governments. The Province has earmarked up to \$1 billion of additional provincial spending to address COVID-19 impacts and restart plans of local governments and public transportation services, conditional on matching federal contributions. You can be sure that any funding relief for BC Ferries will be based on considerations that put the public's interest first, such as ensuring that communities have certainty around service levels and that fares are kept affordable. More information is available in our [news release](#).

As we move forward with Phase 3 of our [Restart Plan](#), we want all our communities, no matter where they are located in the province, to have a chance to rebuild their economies. I want to assure you we remain committed to working with BC Ferries to ensure that coastal communities receive the ferry services they rely on.

.../2

In the meantime, I am glad to see you have already copied Mark Collins on your letter so that he will be aware of your comments regarding the importance of ensuring Ferry Advisory Committees are involved in all aspects of decision-making.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Trevena
Minister

Copy to: Honourable Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
MLA, Coquitlam-Maillardville

Mark Collins, President and CEO
BC Ferries