



200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria BC V8R 1H8  
Telephone **(250) 405-5151** Fax (250) 405-5155

Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 604.660.2421. Elsewhere in BC  
**1.800.663.7867**

Email [information@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:information@islandstrust.bc.ca)

Web [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca)

January 19, 2021

File No.: 0400-20

Via email: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

**Re: Support for the BC Ferries Island Class Electrification Project**

On behalf of Islands Trust Council, I am writing to communicate our support for the BC Ferries Island Class Electrification Project. We urge the federal government to provide financial funding for this important project. This project would enable the conversion of Island-class ferries from hybrid-powered to all-electric vessels by allowing them to seamlessly recharge their batteries during the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers. We believe that the project would support the goals of the Islands Trust Climate Emergency Declaration.

Electrifying the Island Class and its associated terminals would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. On March 13, 2019, the [Islands Trust Council declared a climate emergency](#) and identified ways in which we will help address and mitigate impacts of climate change. Island communities have repeatedly voiced concerns about the greenhouse gas emissions associated with BC Ferries' vessels and reducing vessel emissions is a significant priority to promote the long-term wellbeing of communities and ecosystems. In addition, as the Island Class ferries serve a number of island communities, we see this project as an opportunity to strengthen community resilience and adaptability.

We are thankful that the federal government has taken a leadership position with regard to climate change. In our view this is not something that can wait. Proactive, ambitious actions are needed now with leadership from the House of Commons. This project represents an essential step in the right direction to the transition towards a low-carbon future.

In March 2019, [Islands Trust Council passed a Reconciliation Declaration](#) to commit to the guiding principles of the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (TRC) Calls to Action. The Islands Trust is located within the treaty and territories of many First Nation governments and upgrades to the associated BC Ferries terminals could impact First Nations. We feel that for any electrification project to be successful it must include meaningful and respectful engagement between First Nations, all levels of government, Islands Trust, and BC Ferries, and we would advocate for this meaningful and respectful engagement to be part of this project.

.../2

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau

January 19, 2021

Page 2

With these thoughts in mind we urge you to support this project and encourage the Government of Canada to contribute financially to its success. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Peter Luckham

Chair, Islands Trust Council

[pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca)

C.C. The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P., Minister of Infrastructure and Communities  
The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P., Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance  
The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Government of British Columbia  
The Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Government of British Columbia  
The Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance, Government of British Columbia  
Mark Collins, CEO, BC Ferries  
Trust Area Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA's)  
Trust Area BC Ferry Advisory Committee Chairs  
BC Ferry Commissioner  
Bowen Island Municipal Council  
Islands Trust Council  
Islands Trust website

***Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea***

Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis