



July 13, 2026

The Honourable Gregor Robertson, P.C., M.P., Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and Minister responsible for Pacific Economic Development Canada

The Honourable Steve MacKinnon
Minister of Transport and Internal Trade

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne
Minister of Finance

Re: Support for Motion M-35 – Fair, Stable, Long-Term Federal Operational Support for BC Ferries

Dear Ministers,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Tourism Tofino, we are writing to express our support for Motion M-35 and to encourage the Government of Canada to establish fair, stable, long-term federal operational support for BC Ferries.

For communities on Vancouver Island and along British Columbia's coast, BC Ferries is not simply a transportation provider—it is essential public infrastructure that connects people, businesses, goods, services and communities. Reliable and affordable ferry service is fundamental to our economic resilience, quality of life and the continued prosperity of coastal British Columbia.

Tourism is one of the primary economic drivers for Tofino and the west coast of Vancouver Island. Hundreds of local businesses and thousands of jobs depend on visitors being able to travel to our region safely, reliably and affordably. Ferry service is also essential for residents, employees, health care access, education, supply chains and the movement of goods.

The prospect of significant fare increases in the coming years raises serious concerns for our community. Higher transportation costs would increase the cost of living for residents, place additional financial pressure on businesses, reduce the competitiveness of our tourism sector, and create barriers for workers and visitors alike. For many coastal communities, there is no practical alternative to ferry transportation.

We recognize that ferry systems serving Atlantic Canada provide critical transportation links and deserve strong federal support. At the same time, we believe British Columbia's coastal communities should receive equitable consideration through a modern funding framework that reflects today's population, passenger volumes and economic importance.



As the federal government considers the future of transportation infrastructure and national connectivity, we respectfully request that you:

- Support Motion M-35 and the modernization of federal ferry funding policies;
- Establish fair, stable and long-term federal operational funding for BC Ferries;
- Recognize BC Ferries as essential national transportation infrastructure that supports communities, economic development and Canada's visitor economy;
- Participate in discussions related to the upcoming PT7 review to ensure a sustainable long-term funding model; and
- Work collaboratively with the Province of British Columbia and coastal communities to develop funding solutions that maintain affordable, reliable ferry service.

Reliable marine transportation is essential to the strength of British Columbia's coastal communities and to Canada's broader economy. A modern federal funding partnership would help ensure ferry service remains accessible, affordable and resilient for residents, businesses and visitors for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration. We appreciate your attention to this important issue and look forward to continued federal leadership in supporting Canada's coastal transportation network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read "SH", with a large loop on the left and two vertical strokes on the right.

Samantha Hackett
Executive Director
Tourism Tofino

samanthah@tourismtofino.com

cc: Gord Johns, MP, Courtenay–Alberni