Minister of Housing and Infrastructure
Minister responsible for
Pacific Economic Development Canada

Ministre du Logement et de l'Infrastructure
Ministre responsable de
Développement économique Canada pour le Pacifique

Ottawa, Canada K1P 0B6

July 30, 2026

Gord Johns, M.P.
Courtenay—Alberni
House of Commons
gord.johns@parl.gc.ca

Dear Gord Johns:

Thank you for your letter of May 29, 2026, regarding BC Ferries and the upcoming Performance Term 7 (PT7) process.

As a long-time resident of Vancouver, I know the importance of these ferries to our region. As you would be aware, in accordance with a 1977 agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, Transport Canada provides an annual grant to the province to support coastal ferry services therewithin. The grant, which is indexed annually, was approximately $36.9 million in 2024–2025 and $37.8 million in 2025–2026. Transport Canada also oversees operating funding for interprovincial ferry services in Atlantic Canada to which your letter refers. I encourage you to reach out to the Honourable Steven MacKinnon, Minister of Transport, about this request if you have not already done so.

The Government of Canada is a committed investor in infrastructure that will build a stronger, more competitive and resilient Canadian economy and connect individuals to jobs and economic opportunities. This includes investments in public transit, resilient and protective infrastructure, water and wastewater systems, and green and inclusive community buildings – all of which will help restore affordability, strengthen the economy and improve the quality of life in communities across Canada.

Through the Canada Infrastructure Bank, we have committed $1.075 billion to support the modernization of BC Ferries' fleet and terminals: a $75-million loan in 2024 for four zero-emission ferries and charging infrastructure, and a $1-billion loan in 2025 for four additional major vessels and related electrification infrastructure.

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Through this lower-cost financing, the Government is helping reduce pressure on future BC Ferries fare increases. A full utilization of the financing could generate approximately $650 million in debt interest savings over the life of the loans.

Together, these investments will increase capacity and reliability, reduce emissions, and improve passenger experience. They are also expected to generate more than $1 billion in Canadian economic activity over the life of the vessels, including an estimated 17,200 job-years of employment and $2.2 billion in gross domestic product in British Columbia alone.

Moreover, the Build Communities Strong Fund Community Stream (formerly the Canada Community-Building Fund) allocates $27.8 billion in predictable, indexed federal transfers to support community investments in infrastructure, including short-sea shipping. British Columbia will receive over $1.6 billion through this stream from 2024 to 2029.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

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

c.c. The Honourable Steven MacKinnon, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons