

August 18, 2026



The Honourable Gregor Robertson, P.C., M.P.

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

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

Dear Minister Robertson,

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

The Tofino Chamber represents businesses in a community whose economy depends almost entirely on visitors, workers, and goods arriving by ferry to the island. 61% of our visitors and virtually all the goods that businesses rely on to operate reach Tofino by ferry. When fares rise, it affects our local economy both by making it more difficult to attract customers and by raising costs for businesses, leading to a disproportionate economic impact. The ferry service is essential transportation infrastructure supporting trade, labour mobility, tourism, and community sustainability.

We are concerned about the prospect of significant fare increases in the years ahead. Higher costs would raise the cost of living for our residents and workforce, place further financial pressure on the hundreds of small businesses already navigating a high-cost environment and discourage many potential visitors, eroding the competitiveness of our tourism sector. These increases could be avoided if British Columbians were treated equitably to East Coast provinces in ferry funding support by the Government of Canada. We need a modern federal funding framework that reflects the population and economy of Vancouver Island and our contribution to the country.

On behalf of our members, we encourage the government and all members of parliament representing Vancouver Island to support Motion M-35 and the modernization of federal ferry funding policies. We request the federal government to:

- Establish fair, stable, long-term federal operational funding for BC Ferries;
- Recognize BC Ferries as essential national transportation infrastructure supporting coastal communities, economic development, and Canada's visitor economy;
- Participate actively in the upcoming BC Ferries Performance Term 7 review to ensure a fair funding model;
- Work collaboratively with the Province of British Columbia, coastal local governments, and Indigenous Nations to develop funding solutions that maintain affordable, reliable ferry service.

Sincerely,

Tofino Chamber of Commerce

Myles Beeby
President

Graydon Clerk
Executive Director

CC: The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Steven MacKinnon, M.P., Minister of Transport
The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, M.P., Minister of Finance
Gord Johns, M.P., Courtenay-Alberni