

Thetis Island FAC
c/o Box 14-9
Thetis Island
B.C. V0R 2Y0
Nov. 29, 2011

B.C. Ferry Commission
RPO Box Hillside
Box 35119
Victoria B.C. V8T 5G2.

Attn: Mr. G. Macatee, B.C. Ferry Commissioner and
Mr. S. Stoilen, Deputy B.C. Ferry Commissioner.

Dear Mr. Macatee and Mr. Stoilen, we very much appreciated the time and effort you both took in order to meet with our community and to listen to our concerns.

Although some of the other Ferry Advisory Committees have put together responses to your discussion papers, we have decided not to do so. Instead, we would again like to reiterate that we support the position laid out by the Ferry Advisory Commission Chairs in their document entitled "Ferry Governance: A Matter of Ideology", dated Oct. 20, 2011.

Our Island residents do not expect the free ferry rides that are enjoyed by interior residents, who, incidentally also have a road network, however what we do expect are REASONABLE increases, not the 70 + % increase that we have experienced since the inception of the Coastal Ferry Act.

We understand that having a safe, reliable service requires to have a price tag attached and we are not averse to paying a fair amount for this service, however we would like to be treated like any other infra-structure users in relation to what a fair amount might be.

On our island we have no services of any kind, other than mail delivery, therefore everything has to be brought in from Vancouver Island. Likewise, garbage, septic etc., has to be shipped off. Increase in fares therefore affect absolutely every aspect of our lives. Consequently, the impact of upward spiralling fares has had a major impact on our island and it is our belief that we have reached the breaking point.

It is hoped that your submission to the Provincial Government will reflect the damage that has been done to small island communities by irresponsible and unpredictable fare increases, and that some reasonable solution be arrived at in order to ensure that ferry users receive the same treatment as all other infra-structure users.

Again, we would like to thank you for the work that you have done to date on the issue and hope that the outcome is favourable.

Sincerely,

A. Keir

Ann Keir, Co-chair,
Thetis – Penelakut Ferry Advisory Committee.