

Gabriola Ferry Advisory Committee

To: BC Ferry Commissioner

Commissioner,

The Gabriola FAC would like to thank the Commission for coming to our island for the purpose of hearing directly from us the consequences of spiraling ferry fare increases and what we think should be done to help resolve this major economic problem.

The present FAC is made up of a wide selection of individuals within our community that have or have had positions of trust and leadership inside many of our multiple social societies and organizations. This committee has made a constant effort of being apolitical and concentrate objectively on the issues. Members of the Committee are: Andre Lemieux, John Wood, Erik Andersen, Randy Young and Eric Moeller.

The subject of fare increases that have reached many times the rate of inflation has consumed many of our deliberations but has always resulted in conclusions that were more on the level of wishful thinking then actions that could help.

It is the reason we appreciate the Commission's visit and the Government approval of the review of the process that we believe will result in changes that will bring about relief to the fare structure and its approval procedure.

We have chosen to present the Commission with individual briefs as we believe this would give a broader view of the many reasons that appear to come to the same conclusion.

That the 'Commuter Ferries', which Gabriola Route 19 is part of, should not be under the BC Ferry umbrella but come under a more government led structure as the only way to insure fare sustainability for our users.

We hope that our participation in the process will help the Commission in its deliberations and conclusions.

Andre Lemieux

Chair

Gabriola Ferry Advisory Committee