



April 30, 2020

Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer,
PO Box 9648 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9P4

Dear Dr. Henry:

Re: BC Ferry Travel on Long Week-ends

On behalf of the members of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) I would like to thank you for your extraordinary efforts on behalf of all British Columbians. The members of AVICC are the elected officials in our communities that represent 53 local governments on Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast, Powell River (qathet), the Central Coast and the North Coast of BC.

As President, I was sent a copy of the April 14th letter that you received from many of the mayors and regional district chairs within the AVICC region. These leaders were very concerned about the number of people travelling to Vancouver Island for recreational and non-essential purposes on the Easter long week-end, and would like to avoid a repeat of this on the May long week-end and throughout the summer as long as the public health emergency remains.

The governing board of the AVICC reviewed the April 14th letter, and would like to echo their request, and respectfully encourage you to increase the messaging from your office that people not travel for non-essential purposes. Our board shares the concerns of Mayor Siebring and the other community leaders about the capacity of the health care facilities and dedicated front-line staff in our smaller communities, and the impact that an influx of visitors could have on that. As you are aware, our region has a large demographic of older and more vulnerable residents, and we must look after them above the desires of a few for a week-end getaway.

Sincerely,

Carl Jensen,
President, AVICC