



June 30, 2020

Honourable Claire Trevena, Minister
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Office of the Minister
Room 306 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Trevena,

Re: BC Ferries Service Levels

As President of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities, I am writing to congratulate you for working with BC Ferries to ensure the proposed reductions in “above contract” sailings on eleven routes were avoided. You may remember from our previous correspondence that AVICC members are elected officials who represent 53 local governments on Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast, Powell River (qathet), the Central Coast and the North Coast.

As island and coastal residents, our members and the communities they serve rely on BC Ferries. We agree whole heartedly with your statement that: *“it’s very unfortunate and premature to be making these cuts when we are all working on rebuilding our economy and our communities,” Trevena said. “I know that this is going to have a huge impact on the people living and working in coastal communities.”*

The AVICC Executive has had a request from one of our members to re-establish the 2014 AVICC & UBCM Special Committee on BC Ferries. The Comox Valley Regional District would like the committee to undertake further work on the socioeconomic impacts of BC Ferries in consideration of planned service reductions, and to support the development of a sustainable coastal ferry system. The AVICC Executive understands the proposed cuts were temporary service reductions rather than the permanent reductions planned when the 2014 Special Committee was established. Given that the temporary service reductions are being avoided with the support of your Ministry, the Executive decided it would be premature to reactivate the special committee at this point, but if there were indications these might be permanent we may revisit this decision.

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Representing Local Government on Vancouver Island, Powell River, Sunshine, North and Central Coasts

AVICC would not want to see any permanent reductions on the routes, even in these challenging times. We believe it is crucial that BC Ferries recognize the importance of working with our coastal communities by really engaging with the ferry advisory committees, keeping them informed of proposed changes, and taking their input seriously.

Thank you for the continued support of your Ministry with local government initiatives.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Carl Jensen,
President, AVICC

cc: Mark Collins, President and CEO, BC Ferries
Jesse Ketler, Chair, Comox Valley Regional District