



July 30, 2026

The Honourable Mike Farnworth, MLA
Minister of Transportation and Transit
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Sent via email: TT.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Farnworth,

The Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) is the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) area association representing the interests of local governments and member First Nations in the British Columbia region of Vancouver Island, qathet, the Sunshine Coast, Central Coast and North Coast.

Following consideration at the 2026 AVICC Annual Convention, AVICC members endorsed two resolutions related to post-secondary affordability that pertain to your Ministry. The resolutions and supporting background information are included for your review and consideration:

- **Resolution 2026-R38 – Post-Secondary Affordability**
- **Resolution 2026-R40 – Student Ferry Fares**

These resolutions recognize the significant financial pressures facing post-secondary students across British Columbia, including transportation expenses and barriers to accessing opportunities that contribute to academic success and workforce development.

The resolutions call on the Province to implement the recommendations contained within the [Student Issues Backgrounder 2025](#). One of the recommendations (found on pages 45-47 of the backgrounder) is that BC Ferries pilot a \$10 reduced-fare program for post-secondary students during off-peak travel periods on the major ferry routes. This measure is intended to improve affordability, mobility, and overall student well-being.

Students are our communities' future workforce, community leaders, professionals, entrepreneurs, and elected officials of our communities. AVICC believes it is important that students have a voice in conversations affecting their future and that their perspectives be reflected in discussions taking place at the local government table. AVICC members believe that improving affordability and accessibility for post-secondary students is an investment in British Columbia's future workforce, economic competitiveness, and community well-being.

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

We respectfully request your consideration of these resolutions and any information you can provide regarding provincial initiatives that support post-secondary transportation affordability and student success.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Theresa Dennison, AVICC Executive Director, at 236-237-1202 or tdennison@avicc.ca.

Sincerely,



Vanessa Craig
AVICC President
Director, RD Nanaimo, Area B (Gabriola, Mudge, and DeCourcy Islands)

cc: Kevin Murdoch, Mayor, District of Oak Bay; mayor@oakbay.ca
Marianne Alto, Mayor, City of Victoria; mayor@victoria.ca
Hon. Jessie Sunner, MLA, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills; PSFS.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Hon. Brenda Bailey, MLA, Minister of Finance; FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Michelle Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer, District of Oak Bay; mhunt@oakbay.ca
Jocelyn Jenkins, Chief Executive Officer, City of Victoria; jjenkins@victoria.ca

Attachments:

R38_City of Victoria_Post-Secondary Affordability.pdf
R40_District of Oak Bay_Student Ferry Fares.pdf