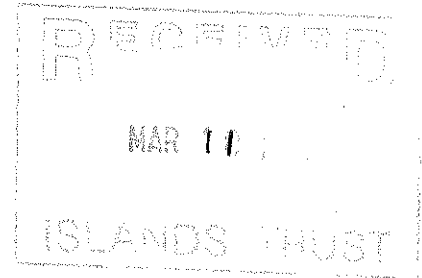




The Best Place on Earth



MAR - 9 2010

Sheila Malcolmson, Chair  
Islands Trust Council  
1627 Fort Street, Suite 200  
Victoria BC V8R 1H8

Reference: 186135  
Your File: PG/14

Dear Chair Malcolmson:

**Re: BC Ferries Review**

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2010, regarding the Comptroller General's review of BC Ferries. I am also responding on behalf of Premier Gordon Campbell.

Our island and coastal communities are an irreplaceable part of British Columbia, and I know the health of our province depends on an affordable, effective ferry service. The review of BC Ferries' governance, financial performance and the regulatory environment in which it operates was meant to help ensure financial and service expectations are being met.

Now that the Comptroller General's report is complete, we are thoroughly reviewing the report's recommendations. You may be interested to know that I recently met with the Ferry Advisory Committee Chairs to discuss the Comptroller General's report. Decisions regarding how our government will proceed with the recommendations will be made in the near future.

While I appreciate your concerns regarding the rising cost of ferry travel, taxpayers are already contributing over \$170 million this fiscal year to guarantee service levels for minor, northern and Sunshine Coast ferry routes. Currently, \$59 million of this funding supports ferries for the Islands Trust area, which has a population of about 25,000. No other small communities in British Columbia benefit from this degree of sustained transportation funding.

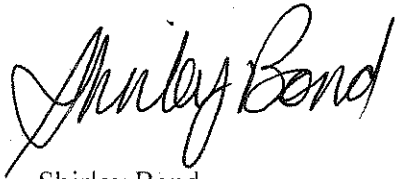
The independent BC Ferry Commissioner regulates ferry service levels and makes sure that any ferry fare increases reflect real changes in the cost of providing this vital service. For more information, you may wish to visit the commission's web site at [http://www.bcferrycommission.com/about\\_the\\_commission.html](http://www.bcferrycommission.com/about_the_commission.html).

In closing, please be assured that ministry staff will be happy to consult with representatives of the Islands Trust Council as decisions are made regarding the delivery of coastal ferry services in British Columbia. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Kirk Handrahan, my ministry's Executive Director, Infrastructure Development and Marine Branch, at 250 952-0678 or by e-mail at [Kirk.Handrahan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kirk.Handrahan@gov.bc.ca). He will be pleased to assist you.

.../2

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Bond". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shirley Bond  
Minister

Copy to: Premier Gordon Campbell

Honourable Colin Hansen  
Minister of Finance and  
Deputy Premier  
MLA, Vancouver-Quilchena

Honourable Murray Coell  
Minister of Labour  
MLA, Saanich North and the Islands

Honourable Bill Bennett  
Minister of Community and Rural Development  
MLA, Kootenay East

Joan McIntyre  
MLA, West Vancouver-Sea to Sky

David Hahn  
President and CEO  
BC Ferries

Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland  
Comptroller General  
Ministry of Finance

Kirk Handrahan, Executive Director  
Infrastructure Development and Marine Branch