

File: 8700-20/BCF

June 11, 2020

Chair and Directors  
Comox Valley Regional District Board

**Re: AVICC - Special Committee on BC Ferries**

I am writing to request your support in advocating to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) to re-establish a special committee on BC Ferries.

It has recently come to light that BC Ferries is undertaking cuts to coastal ferry services, including proposed reductions between Buckley Bay and Denman Island, as well as between Denman Island and Hornby Island. Such reductions, being proposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, would have a profound impact on these communities, affecting nearly every aspect of life, including the economy, emergency services, education and health care. Despite a request for more consultation, very little public engagement has taken place.

When faced with similar proposed reductions in 2014, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) established a Special Committee on BC Ferries. Through the work and deliberations of the committee, a policy paper was produced entitled 'Socioeconomic Impact Analysis of BC Ferries', available at the following web address:

[https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions~and~Policy/Policy~Papers/2014/UBCM\\_PolicyPaper\\_Book01\\_2014.pdf](https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions~and~Policy/Policy~Papers/2014/UBCM_PolicyPaper_Book01_2014.pdf)

The report highlighted the significant impact of BC Ferries on all regions of the province and led to the UBCM endorsing a request to the Province to cancel the service cuts, undertake further socioeconomic impact analysis and work cooperatively with coastal communities and other interested parties on the development and implementation of a long-term strategy for the coastal ferry system.

With these latter requests still outstanding and now further cuts being proposed, I respectfully request the board's consideration of the following:

THAT the board write to Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities to request the re-establishment of the Special Committee on BC Ferries to undertake further work on the socioeconomic impacts of BC Ferries and in consideration the planned service reductions to support the development of a sustainable coastal ferry system.

Respectfully,

***D. Arbour***

Daniel Arbour  
Director