

ATTACHMENT B

January 19, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: Letter of Support – B.C Ferries Island Class Electrification Project

As Mayor of the City of Nanaimo, and on behalf of Council, I am pleased to provide this letter of support to B.C. Ferries Island Class Electrification Project.

We urge the federal government to provide financial funding for this important project. This project would enable the conversion of Island-class ferries from hybrid-powered to all-electric vessels by allowing them to seamlessly recharge their batteries as passengers embark and disembark from the ferry during docking. We believe that the project would result in significant community benefits for the City of Nanaimo.

Electrifying the Island Class Ferries and its associated terminals, such as the Gabriola Island terminal in downtown Nanaimo, would help the City reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Through the City's Official Community Plan and Council Strategic Plan, greenhouse gas emissions reduction is seen as a significant priority to promote the long-term wellbeing and the future of our growing community. In April 2019, the City of Nanaimo also declared a Climate Emergency and is currently reviewing and updating its current climate plans and policies to speed up implementation of our GHG reduction goals. The Plan being proposed by BC Ferries will greatly help the City implement this effort.

In addition to emissions reduction, we see the electrification of the Island Class as a valuable opportunity to collaborate with BC Ferries on a community decarbonisation strategy that incorporates local resident and business perspectives. Since the Island Class ferries serves a number of inter-island communities, we see this project as an opportunity to also strengthen community resiliency and adaptability.

We feel the issue of climate change is one of the most significant challenges facing our province and country. This project would be a first on the West Coast and represents an essential step in the right direction to the transition towards low carbon energy. It would help Canada take meaningful action against climate change while positioning our region as a leader in marine environmental protection.

We support this project and encourage the government to financially contribute to its success.

Sincerely,

Leonard Krog
M A Y O R

cc:

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P., Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P., Minister of Environment and Climate Change

The Honourable Chyrstia Freeland, P.C., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Government of British Columbia

The Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Government of British Columbia

The Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance, Government of British Columbia

Mark Collins, CEO, BC Ferries