



PRESIDENT'S WEEK IN REVIEW June 15 - 21, 2020



Hello all,

Much of last week was spent working through various issues arising from the Island Class Vessels and looming layoffs. From where I sit, it seems clear that BC Ferries was surprised by Transport Canada issuing a five crew "C" license.

To date, no formal layoff notices have been issued to any members affected by the arrival of the Island Class Vessels, which means members on full pay are sitting at home while the Company refuses to use them for routine maintenance or other duties. What's more, this obstinate approach is coming from the highest levels of management, and makes little sense; aside from being disrespectful to their employees, BC Ferries' refusal to use workers they are already paying for work that needs to be done anyway – out of fear of precedent – suggests a fragility of character. Given the minimum crew level is already in dispute, I am left to wonder what precedent BC Ferries is worried about setting.

Regardless of BC Ferries' management of this situation, the greater problem of safety falls at the feet of Transport Canada who approved the Island Class Vessels to operate in a condition that allows BC Ferries to cut costs at the expense of safety. As a result, we have filed for judicial review of Transport Canada's decision. In the meantime, will we continue to fight to protect our members from the whims of BC Ferries' leadership.

You can find our Union's application for Judicial Review and supporting affidavits on our website:

[2020-06-22 – Notice of Application \(unfiled\)](#)

[2020-06-22 – Affidavit – Dan Kimmerly](#)

[2020-06-22 – Affidavit – Graeme Johnston](#)

Huge thanks to our Legal Counsel, Craig Bavis of Victory Square Law Office, for his attention to this matter. Also, many thanks to the Texada Chamber of Commerce and Village of Alert Bay for sharing your concerns with us and the public.

Next Week: A trip to Vancouver; a Provincial Executive meeting; some interesting legal stuff; and a Zoom Town Hall.

Thanks for reading, and I hope to see you soon!

In Solidarity,

BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION

Brother Graeme Johnston
Provincial President