



BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION

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VIA Email

Hon. Chrystia Freeland
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca

May 21, 2025

Dear Minister Freeland:

RE: CONGRATULATIONS AND PARTNERSHIP ON BEHALF OF BCFMWU

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Canada's Minister of Transport. On behalf of the BC Ferry & Marine Workers' Union (BCFMWU), I'd like to extend our best wishes as you take on this important role.

BCFMWU represents over 4,500 ferry workers in British Columbia. Our members keep coastal communities connected, the economy moving and the marine transportation system running safely and efficiently. Ferries are not a luxury in British Columbia; they are essential public infrastructure, just like highways and railways.

BC Ferries carries over 22.6 million passengers and 9.6 million vehicles annually. The system transports an estimated \$8 billion worth of cargo each year, serving as a vital link for food, fuel and goods to coastal and island communities. Despite this, B.C.'s ferry system receives minimal federal investment, while Marine Atlantic and VIA Rail receive substantial annual support. This disparity leaves British Columbia at a disadvantage compared to other regions of Canada.

As the federal government looks to build resilient infrastructure and protect critical supply chains, B.C.'s ferry system must be part of that plan. That includes investing in domestic shipbuilding and procurement policies that create good union jobs and avoid offshoring.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to share more about the work our members do and how federal leadership can make a real difference.

Sincerely,

BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION

Eric McNeely
Provincial President

Cc: Hon. Mike Farnworth, Minister of Transportation and Transit
Nicolas Jimenez, President & CEO, BCFS



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AFFILIATED WITH:

BC Federation of Labour

BC General Employees' Union

Canadian Labour Congress

National Union of Public & General Employees

International Transport Workers' Federation