

BRITISH COLUMBIA

# BUDGET CONSULTATION SUBMISSION

JUNE 2026



# 2027 BUDGET PRIORITIES

The BC Ferry & Marine Workers' Union represents more than 4,500 workers across British Columbia's marine transportation sector.

Our members keep marine transportation services operating safely. We take pride in reliably connecting communities every day of the year.

Every year, British Columbia invites public recommendations ahead of the provincial budget.

Our submission this year outlines three priorities to strengthen our marine transportation system, support ferry workers and deliver better value for taxpayers.



# 1

## BUILD OUR FERRIES HERE

Support building, refitting, maintaining, and recycling ferries in British Columbia through investments in shipyards and local supply chains.

### EXPLANATION

Ferries are a major public investment and create opportunities to support jobs, local businesses and marine expertise in British Columbia.

Budget 2027 should build on the province's focus on economic resilience by creating more opportunities for ferry construction, refit, maintenance and recycling work.

That includes supporting shipyards and improving long-term planning so local industry is better positioned to participate in future vessel projects.

Keeping ferry construction work in British Columbia strengthens supply chains, supports coastal communities and increases the long-term value of public investment.



# 2

## SUPPORT MARINE CAREERS

Make marine training easier to access by increasing training opportunities and helping people get the practical experience needed to start and progress marine careers with financial supports.

### EXPLANATION

Reliable marine transportation depends on trained and qualified workers. Skilled workers in marine careers can take years and usually require both classroom training and practical experience.

Access to training and experience can also be difficult for people living outside major centres or for people who face barriers entering and advancing within the industry including women, Indigenous peoples, people of colour and residents of remote communities.

Budget 2027 should support expanding access to marine training and practical experience across British Columbia. That could include more regional delivery, more opportunities to gain practical experience and stronger connections between training providers and marine employers.

Making training easier to access will help more people enter and progress in marine careers, support coastal communities and help ensure B.C. has the workers needed to support marine transportation for the future.



# 3

## FUND A PUBLIC FERRY SERVICE REVIEW

Fund a review of publicly funded ferry services to identify where bringing or returning services into public operation could improve value, accountability and service delivery.

### EXPLANATION

Budget 2027 should fund an independent review to examine whether publicly operated ferry transportation models could improve value for taxpayers and strengthen public accountability.

The review should include services currently operating on Barnston Island, Kootenay Lake, Adams Lake, Arrow Lakes and BC Ferries routes.

The review should compare operating costs, service reliability, governance and economic benefits across different models and identify where public operation could provide better long-term outcomes and identify opportunities to ensure public funding delivers the greatest possible public benefit.

The review and recommendations should be made public once completed.

Public ferry services connect communities and support local economies. Government should understand whether current delivery models are giving British Columbians the best value for their investment.

