BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION

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Via Email

Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

September 10, 2026

RE: SUPPORT FOR MOTION M-35 AND FAIR FEDERAL FUNDING FOR B.C. FERRIES

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers,

I'm writing in support of Motion M-35 and its call for fair, stable and long-term operational funding for B.C.'s ferry system on behalf of the BC Ferry & Marine Workers' Union, representing 5,000 ferry and marine workers across British Columbia.

Our ferries are part of the Trans-Canada highway. We rely on ferries to get to work, access health care and education, move goods, and support our economy. We need ferries to stay connected to the rest of Canada.

Our members see the consequences of our underfunded marine highway every day. Rising fares, aging ships and service disruptions combined with growing demand are putting pressure on both ferry workers and our communities.

British Columbia deserves the same support and recognition as other ferry-dependent communities in Canada. The longstanding disparity in federal support for B.C. ferry services needs to be addressed.

We urge the federal government to support Motion M-35 and work with the province of British Columbia, ferry operators, coastal communities and ferry workers to establish fair, predictable and sustainable federal ferry funding for B.C.

Federal investment must support a long-term strategy for B.C.'s ferry system, one that improves reliability and affordability, strengthens the marine workforce and ensures future public ferries are built here in British Columbia, generating good jobs and rebuilding our shipbuilding capacity.

It's time to update the 50-year-old federal funding formula as coastal B.C.'s population surpasses other provinces and territories.

We are ready to work with all levels of government toward a ferry system that serves coastal communities on our west coast reliably and sustainably.

Sincerely,
BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION

Eric McNeely
Provincial President