



C

S22

21 13  
21.5 <sup>ST</sup> 6004

Premiers Office  
Legis. Liaison Golden  
STN PRW Grant  
VICTOR 1 MC

Dear ~~James~~ <sup>Primer</sup> Office,  
as it is disappointing  
to hear that slot  
machines may be put  
in OC Ferries bch. (SD)  
Swartz Bay + Twassen  
whether considered  
part of OC's highway  
system or not, <sup>OC</sup> Ferries  
are part of our  
transportation system  
I found gambling  
to be a depressing

activity when at a charity  
bingo. Even winning seemed to  
bring very short-lived joy.

In my experience  
people who go to casinos  
or gamble are not the <sup>(advertised)</sup>  
so called 'high class' people,  
but are often people who could  
be considered 'handicapped', or not  
that well off.

It is especially depressing  
that - however indirectly - children  
will be exposed to this  
gambling when on our  
transportation systems.

I don't think such  
is at all in the public  
interest.

Some expected seniors  
to have to pay more as  
foot passengers. It has been  
pointed out that some seniors  
may not gamble away their  
time, & in effect pay about  
as much as adults.

S22

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 17:03  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: ferry tales & fairy tales

Cushy salaries/bonuses/performance top-ups - call it what you will, but it all seems a bit too ridiculous & greedy, especially in the wake of projected service cuts & sailings . You might do well to remember just who pays for your exalted positions, especially since those who are footing the bill are receiving increasingly less on a regular basis. Don't count on slots to lure people aboard - all that will do is increase their fares even further as you don't see many winners emerging from casinos!

Keep it up & you'll kill the goose that laid the golden egg when the public decides to sail only out of necessity, rather than for pleasure, since there is certainly no pleasure in paying more & receiving less.

S22

pls cc relevant persons in Ferry Corp.

From: S22  
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2013 15:54  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Cc: todd.stone.mla@leg.bc.ca; michellestillwell.mla@leg.bc.ca; Fraser.MLA, Scott LASS:EX; mayor@qualicumbeach.com; chrisburger@parksville.ca  
Subject: BC Ferries

Dear Premier

It is with much disappointment that I write this email. I am a S22 resident of BC now retired. I worked for 45 years paying my taxes and providing for my family, during this time I created jobs for a number of people as I was always self employed and owned a number of businesses. Premier Clarke I respected and admired your platform during the last election supporting families in BC. I mean let's face it family is everything. However now your government is allowing BC Ferries to begin charging seniors for ferry travel when it was free this is a step backwards. This will affect seniors traveling to be with or to help out their families in times of need. Allowing slot machines on ferries is another step in the wrong direction. This is another attack on the people who can least afford it. We all know the stats on problem gambling and its effect on families already trying to make ends meet. I find the ferry system almost sickening to read that employees of the ferry system, which is a monopoly are being paid huge performance bonuses. For what, there is no competition??? Also that the staff of BC ferries can travel free of charge when ever and after their retirement. Seniors were only getting a break on fares from Mon- Thurs. inclusive I find it hard to believe that by cutting this service the ferry corporation will save the kind of money needed to balance their operational costs. As a lifetime liberal supporter I will be reconsidering my support at the time of the next election.

Regards

S22

From: S22  
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2013 15:35  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: Contact MLA Form Submitted From Legislative Assembly Web Site

Here is a forward from my original email to your interior office.

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From: "Christy Clark.MLA" <Christy.Clark.MLA@leg.bc.ca>  
To: S22  
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2013 2:41:49 PM  
Subject: RE: Contact MLA Form Submitted From Legislative Assembly Web Site

Good Afternoon S22

On behalf of the Hon. Christy Clark, MLA (Westside-Kelowna) thank you for your email. Government protocol suggests constituents work with their local provincial representative (<http://www.leg.bc.ca/mla/3-1-1.htm>) and unfortunately our search could not determine if you reside in the Westside-Kelowna riding. In response to this email please include your complete mailing address with postal code and we will endeavour to respond to your concerns or forward them to the appropriate office for review and consideration.

Should you wish to forward your email to Premier Christy Clark ([premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)) we have included her email address for your convenience.

Thank you for taking the time to contact our office.

Regards,

OFFICE OF THE HON. CHRISTY CLARK, MLA  
Westside-Kelowna  
(T) 250.768.8426  
(F) 250.768.8436  
(W) [www.christyclarkmlabc.ca](http://www.christyclarkmlabc.ca)

From: S22  
Sent: November 21, 2013 5:46 PM  
To: Clark.MLA, Christy  
Subject: Contact MLA Form Submitted From Legislative Assembly Web Site

Name:  
Email: S22

Message: Ms. Clark. Re: Ferry policy. Well, I suppose you have a blank policy cheque since your party's re-election. Given that, will you please control the minions that dreamed up charging seniors for a trip and gambling in the same breath. Tell them to get some ..lls and either hit them with 100% or leave them alone (preferably). Gambling, well its ones choice isnt it? Tossing out a policy that includes a senior age group and vice indicates a lack of judgement, and poor taste in my opinion. I didn't vote for you, though I met you as a young Liberal years ago in Burnaby and like you. Your a good person. Take charge of your policy makers and tell'em to get some class. If you need to make cuts, make them. Don't do the ferry system in with a thousand cuts as policy makers have done for years with the airline industry. Best regards S22

From: S22  
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2013 12:46  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: FW: BC Ferries and Seniors Discounts AND Casino slot machines

Dear Premier,

Below is an email I sent to my local MLA. Rather than type another I will just provide you with this one below. It says it all.

S22  
Parksville

From: S22  
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2013 12:33 PM  
To: 'michelle.stilwell.mla@leg.bc.ca'  
Subject: BC Ferries and Seniors Discounts AND Casino slot machines

I am a S22 living in Parksville who uses the ferry system to travel to the mainland to visit family. As I am on very limited income (considered poverty level) when I use the ferry system I travel by car on those days where there is a senior's discount. I have to think long and hard about whether I can afford these trips. When I travel I do not buy food or drink or spend money at the terminal or on board. I pack my own meals and bring my own tea to save money. For me every nickel counts. It is how I live.

So you can imagine how upsetting this is to hear that the Seniors 100% discount is ending. This is going to impact friends as well who are on limited income. And by that I mean they and I receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement so you will have an idea just how limited the income is. I do not eat out nor travel great distances so that I can maintain my own home and be independent. My entertainment is the library for books and movies.

As far as I can see the B.C. Ferries are becoming floating cruise ships with overpaid help.

I was also sickened to read that the Liberal government in B.C. has stooped so low as to consider casino slot machines on board. Yet another way the government can suck money from the weak and addicted. As you are very well aware (perhaps not) Canadians are up to their necks in debt and it gets worse every day. And yet, the government continues to hook the public into emptying their wallets.

Perhaps the ferries executives and the B.C. Liberals could put their very pricey heads together and find more creative ways to budget without expecting the public to always ante up. How about some slash and burn at the high salaries and free rates for staff.

I am a current member of the Liberal Party of Canada but I'll be thinking long and hard about voting for Liberal again.

S22



From: S22  
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 23:26  
To: Trevena.MLA, Claire F LASS:EX; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX;  
todd.stone.mla@leg.bc.ca  
Subject: Thanks to S22 ..for PR residents

From S22

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 22:24  
To: Trevena.MLA, Claire F LASS:EX; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX;  
todd.stone.mla@leg.bc.ca  
Subject: Welcome to Todd Sloan's Ferry Systems everyone...

The B.C. government has confirmed it plans to reduce BC Ferries service on both minor and major routes, cut seniors' discounts and test slot machines on board one of its main routes. Transportation Minister Todd Stone announced the cuts and changes on Monday morning. "The first phase is service reductions to lower-use round trip sailings on the minor routes, and on the higher-cost northern routes, accounting for \$14 million in net savings. These service adjustments will be implemented in April 2014," said Stone.

A total of 6,900 sailing per year on 16 minor routes will be affected. Six minor routes will not be affected.

Most of the sailings to be cut were identified as running at roughly 20 per cent capacity or less. These include early morning and weekend sailings, and late night sailings on the weekends, particularly during the non-summer months.

Other changes on the minor routes include combining separate sailing into combined sailings with multiple stops, and introducing a reservation system.

Stone said there would be another round of community consultation this fall before the changes are finalized and rolled out this April. He did not have an estimate of the number of jobs that might be affected.

Future changes to the major routes are also planned, he said.

"BC Ferries will also implement further changes to the major routes prior to April 2016 to achieve \$4.9 million in savings. Minor and northern routes will not be affected by these changes."

The specific details of how any of the major routes will be affected were not announced.

Seniors discounts slashed

Stone said the cuts and changes were made to make BC Ferries more financially sustainable.

**NO CUTS TO ANY FERRIES IN HIS KAMLOOPS RIDING!!!**

**HOW ELSE CAN HE AFFORD TO HAVE ALL THE HIGHEST PAID FERRY EXECUTIVES IN NORTH AMERICA!!!**

**BC FERRIES IS NOW TOTALLY 'TOP HEAVY' WITH THEIR NUMBER OF MANAGERS AND DIRECTORS AS COMPARED TO WASHINGTON STATE!!!**

From: S22  
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2013 17:31  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Cc: todd.stone.mla@leg.bc.ca; don.mccrae.mla@leg.bc.ca; clair.trevena.mla@leg.bc.ca; deborah.marshall@bcferries.com  
Subject: Clawback of senior discount on bc ferries

Dear Premier:

I am writing to voice my extreme disappointment at the decision to remove the mid-week free passage for seniors on BC Ferries. What a kick in the butt for one of the most vulnerable groups in our society. It is mean-spirited and just not right.

Many seniors live on very reduced incomes and loss of this free passenger incentive will only mean a further loss of ferry passengers. They will simply not use the system as often. Such a false saving. Many seniors will no longer pay to bring their vehicle aboard, use transit or vehicle parking to access ferries, purchase food on board, take advantage of the gift shop, or plug loonies into the future slot machines (another ridiculous idea).

BC Ferries President, Michael Corrigan, defends free passes to BC Ferry workers and families by saying it really doesn't cost anything because the ferries are running half-full anyway. Amazing that the same logic does not apply to BC seniors! Perhaps BC Ferries and the BC government should look at this practice of free "insider" passage, which cost over five million dollars according to data from November, 2010, before attacking BC seniors. So unfair.

Taking the free incentive away from seniors also has a further detrimental effect, besides financial. I am involved with S22 and loneliness, isolation and depression are major issues for some seniors. Occasional free passenger ferry rides to see friends and family, to get out on a safe adventure, are very important to them. It is something for them to look forward to, something that gets them out, something that gets them interacting, making connections. With this ill-thought out decision to remove free mid-week passage, you are only exacerbating the loneliness, isolation and depression that some seniors experience.

Please rethink and reverse this decision to take away the free incentive for seniors. This "cost-saving" will do nothing to solve BC Ferries financial woes, only negatively impact BC seniors.

Thank-you for your reconsideration and hopeful reversal of the proposed increase to BC Ferries senior passenger fares. Many seniors, and their families and friends, would greatly appreciate this.

Sincerely,

S22

From: S22  
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2013 17:29  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Re: B.C. Ferries Gambling.

Dear Premier,

Please do not put gambling on B.C. Ferries. I understand that it brings in money for the government, but that is not what really makes a province great, it is it's people and it's soul. Ultimately gambling will not add health to the province in the long run. It can only create a balance of sadness. I enjoy getting on a ferry right now, even with the price. If there are machines (gambling) on board, I don't think I will ever be able to feel that way again. I am completely against it. This will be a key issue for me come election time.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

S22

November 18, 2013

The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of BC  
The Honourable Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation  
The Honourable Jordan Story, Transportation Parliamentary Secretary

Dear Madam and Sirs:

I am a resident of Salt Spring Island and have been a supporter of the provincial Liberals for many years. I'm writing this letter to express my outrage at the controversial announcement today by the Minister of Transportation regarding major changes and cuts proposed for the BC Ferry Service commencing April 1, 2014.

It is mind boggling that the government would proceed with a major announcement before completing a series of community engagement meetings planned for a six week period over the next month or so. I can only deduce that the timing must be attributed to inexperience, or incompetence – or perhaps worse, an intended “public relations” strategy. Regardless, it is frankly rude, condescending and offensive to the citizens of this province invited to participate and who represent 20% or more of the total provincial population.

Furthermore, the proposed cuts and changes do little to meet the so-called “fiscal fairness” benchmark that the government so proudly touts as a “value” that will guide its decision making. “Fiscal Fairness is the practice of government that ensures that all taxpaying citizens are treated in an equitable manner.”

For example, why were there no changes announced regarding the Interior ferry services? As a reminder, the BCTFA, in cooperation with the MoTI, continues to fund and administer contracts for fourteen ferry routes in the interior of British Columbia which run free to the user as part of their obligation to highway funding. The interior routes include six vessels, five reaction ferries, two aerial tramways (winter use), five cable ferries, plus tugboats and barges, all of which provide services to the customer at no charge. The fleet carries more than 2.4 million passengers and more than 1.5 million vehicles annually without charge to the user at an annual operating cost of \$20.8 million and (Ministry of Finance – Budget Estimates - 2013).

I am also a senior and resent the removal of complimentary personal travel between Monday and Thursday. The strategy is insidious at best since it pits one major demographic against all the others. If anyone at any age can travel free in the Interior, surely seniors over the age of 65 can continue to travel free between Monday and Thursday on the coast! Let's be clear, a walk-on senior passenger costs the ferry nothing. To conclude that it is a significant “cost” that must be cut by half is nonsense.

I can assure you that this will only cause another round of cuts in service (or increase in fares) as a result of a drop in total ridership, which will inevitably occur. Furthermore, the \$6 million so called “senior savings” are a pittance in the overall approximately \$800 million ferry corporation operating budget and can be found easily elsewhere.

The proposed “gambling” venture on various routes is another example of a government afraid to tackle the excessive costs of union wages, collective agreements, defined pension plans and executive pay. Instead, it's easier to go after the “low hanging fruit” like seniors and the vulnerable citizens who might be attracted to “gambling” while travelling on perhaps the most spectacular natural coastal routes in the world. How can the government in all good conscience

promote gambling while at the same time fund programs to mitigate the massive social and economic costs of gambling addiction? It is irresponsible and unconscionable.

Finally, I recommend that the government immediately withdraw the proposed changes announced today and proceed with the public engagement meetings as planned. There doesn't seem to be any point in "engaging the public" otherwise, particularly if the government has already made up its mind. The announcement preempts any rational discussion and creates a climate of antagonism and unpleasant confrontation. I can assure you that the process will not be helpful or productive for the government, consultants or the participants.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

S22

CC: All Government MLA's; Gary Holman, MLA

From S22  
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2013 12:08  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: BC Ferry Concerns!!

Dear Honourable Christy Clark,

I wanted to contact you and share some serious concerns my wife and I have about the BC Ferry services, and ask you some questions we hope you can answer.

We live in Powell River, and as you know, our area is quite isolated and we rely heavily on the Ferry Services to Vancouver & the Island. We are already looking at a boat downsize for the runs to Comox, and we have the understanding that the boat will be open on the vehicle decks. With open waters to Comox, we have concerns of the damage the salt water will do to our vehicles on an open vessel.

Also, the downsize in boats, I can understand due to the lower traffic during off peak hours. However, this will seriously affect the sailings during peak periods and holidays when vehicles will most certainly be turned away due to full boats.

The cut in the number of sailings, they are proposing, will affect our communities dramatically, particularly families that rely on the ferries for getting to sports activities on the Island. This will cause kids involved in baseball & hockey, for example, to end their team participation.

My biggest questions to you, the BC government & BC Ferries would be;

1. Why, in stead of cutting boat sizes and scheduled ferry runs, can't the BC ferries reduce the ridiculous overhead in BC Ferry office staffing and levels of management, along with changing the crazy bonuses in place? Why does the BC government not step in and insist on some changes to this problem?
2. Why, instead, are they planing to increase the cost of travel on the ferries for seniors, in addition to preying on travelers with implementing gambling slot machines on the boats to make up their costs to run the ferries; ridiculous?
3. Why, when we are tax payers to the road systems in BC, are the BC Ferries not under the same umbrella of costs covered by the BC government? These ferries are our 'road' transportation around BC, to Vancouver and the Islands. We EXPECT the roads of BC to be a COST that comes from taxes. Why do we expect the ferries to make a profit when they operate. They are an expense that should be paid by our road services and should be treated no differently?

Please, if you would be so kind, give me answers to these questions that make some sense, and tell me what our government is doing about these serious problems.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

S22  
Powell River, BC

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 4:33 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: BC Ferries

Premier Clark:

I am opposed to the installation of slot machines on the ferries. There is enough opportunity for addiction in our province, and having gambling on our ferries makes it appear to our children as an acceptable part of BC lifestyle. I think this latest idea to make money is offensive. I do not frequent casinos, ferries are my only option for travel to the mainland, I do not want to be exposed to gambling, and I do not want my ferry travel dollars to support slot machines and the problems associated with them. I believe that gambling is not part of a healthy society.

S22



-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 4:35 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Slot machines on BC Ferries

Dear Premier Clark,

I was disgusted to learn of the proposal to place slot machines on BC Ferries. Gambling is an unhealthy addiction for many, but at least opportunities to gamble are usually ones you have to make a conscious decision to seek out. Allowing gambling on a BC Ferry is a callous money grab which demonstrates no concern for the many that gambling hurts. What's next - a beer garden?

Shame on you and your government for even considering this idea.

Sincerely,

S22

Nanaimo, BC  
Sent from my iPad

From: S22  
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 13:27  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX;  
todd.stone.mla@leg.bc.ca; laurie.throness.mla@leg.bc.ca  
Subject: Ferry Rate Changes Affecting Seniors and Gambling

To:  
Honourable Christy Clark, BC Premier  
Honourable Ted Stone, BC Transportation Minister  
Honourable Laurie Stroness, MLA Chilliwack

Dear Ministers,

RE: Recently announced changes to BC Ferry rates and services

I am writing to you as a Senior who is greatly disturbed with a couple of the announced changes with BC Ferries.

The proposal to discontinue the free Monday thru' Thursday fares and now charge Senior passengers (those having Gold Cards) 1/2 price fares seven days a week is total nonsense and counter-productive. Most Senior passengers travel with their vehicle, so for the sake of introducing the \$7.75/trip charge the service will lose the vehicle charge of a minimum of \$51.25 as many Seniors will now find the travel unaffordable. Many of those Seniors also use the food services, so there again there is a loss. Further, with the free passage Monday thru' Thursday, most Seniors travel those days instead of the weekends when ferry service demands already higher. With the proposed rate change, where is the incentive to avoid weekend travel.

The Vancouver Lower Mainland to Southern Vancouver Island routes will see a significant drop in Senior travel, most evident on the weekdays. Crew levels have to remain the same regardless, so cost of operating the ferries does not change. Revenues, on the other hand will drop significantly. Where is the logic?

For my wife and myself (both Seniors) the proposed changes will see less, if any, future travel to Vancouver Island.

Also of concern is the proposal to introduce slot machines on the ferries. These are not cruise ships! For the sake of a couple of hours of ill begotten revenue, more citizen's lives will be corrupted and with all the other goings on on these ships another part of having a reasonably peaceful trip will be lost. What's next a Sports Bar with 1/2 price Happy Hours?

I think the citizens of BC have been ill served long enough. The era of this quasi private/government run ferry service needs to end. The ferry service is supposed to be an extension of our highways so bring it back as a Civil Service as a division under the Transportation Ministry. Get rid of these high priced, self serving appointments with their PR talking heads alibiing the latest ferry screw up.

In closing, I would ask that “saner heads prevail” by leaving the Monday thru Thursday Free Senior fares as is and further, drop any thought to introduce gambling, ie; slot machines to the ferries.

Yours truly,

S22

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 5:12 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Ferries again

Dear Ms. Clark,

island-dwelling seniors screwed yet again by your government and BC Ferry Corp. Do what you were elected to do, "families first" Premier, and put a stop to this bloody nonsense. And slot machines? Disgusting, too.

Sincerely,  
S22

-----Original Message-----

From: S22

Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 5:13 PM

To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Subject: B.C. Ferries

Dear Madame Premier,

We are residents of Sidney, Vancouver Island and frequent users of the B.C. Ferry System.

As seniors, we are willing to accept the fare increase for fellow seniors.

However, the suggestion of putting slot machines on the Ferries is absolutely unacceptable.

Yours Sincerely,

S22

From: S22  
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 09:49  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Cc: contact@andrewweavermila.ca  
Subject: BC Ferries

Dear Premier,

Calling bonuses something else erodes the credibility of the government.

Bringing gambling to the ferries is a terrible idea.

I am a senior and don't mind paying my fair share, but I expect others to do the same. Collecting bonuses and presiding over growing losses is not my idea of sharing fairly.

My idea to improve the connection between the island and Vancouver:

Build a rail connection between Vancouver and Tsawwassen, and Victoria and Schwartz Bay.

Add passenger only ferries to connect with the trains or load the trains onto barges - whatever is the better technical solution.

S22

Victoria BC

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 5:52 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: B.C. Ferries

Your Honour Premier Clark

Regarding the latest proposal to allow slot machines onboard B.C. Ferries, I feel, increasing gambling opportunities is just too easy a fix and should not be part of government revenues. It teaches and feeds upon an attitude of "something for nothing." That said, I trust this is just a trial balloon for your government and that you will do the right thing. Please reconsider this and not expand gambling to ferries, asking seniors to contribute more for ferries, is less problematic for me, I am S22 myself. You might also want to consider hiring younger, eager, CEOs to B.C. Ferries and for far less money, reversing the trend in paying out huge executive salaries for them to do the dirty work, we are really feeling disenfranchised.

Respectfully, S22 Gibsons B.C.

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 23:42  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: BC Ferries

Christy Clark:

BC Ferries continues to be the most ridiculous financially managed company ever! Any other business that continually cuts services and increases salary and bonuses to management and then raises prices for its clients, would soon go out of business!

The tremendously stupid ideas of increasing the price for seniors to \$7.50 during three days is “small” thinking for catching a relative little bit of money from many people who cannot afford it. Creating a gambling venue for a captive audience which includes many families with children and seniors who have no extra money to gamble is another blow to sanity.

Cutting services to islands from which inhabitants need to go to and from work takes away their livelihood. On top of that they are apparently supposed to gamble when they can get on the ferry!!

What has ever happened to business accountability!! BC ferries should be part of the BC transportation system and be made accountable for its management and salaries. It’s purpose is to serve these islands, not gouge residents so they are forced to leave and go elsewhere to earn a living or be forced to retire where the transportation allows them to visit with their families.

I for one, would rather have a less luxurious, but more affordable ferry system that met islanders needs, as is the case on the east coast of Canada.

S22



From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 23:26  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Ferries

Dear Premier,

This is the second time I have written you. The first was in regard to B.C. Hydro and their new meters to replace old ones that still work, and have a longer life span than the new ones, wasting a billion dollars that could have been spent on ferries. Not very hard to come up with the cash that way???? Government loves to spend our taxpayers money. Maybe one day they will learn. And then I might vote for a politician.

This time my I am writing about your government looking for cash savings on the ferry system. Personally I think all ferry routes should be super inexpensive to encourage development and business, and maybe bridges in the future.

Your governments new idea to put gambling on board ferries is just plain stupid. Again I say trim the fat at the top and look for other ways to make money. What ever you do don't hire a government consultant to figure something out. Simply just ask the ferry users themselves. Where I live in Gibsons on the Sunshine Coast things are dying here as young people move away as there are no good jobs for them . Seniors move away as their family's cannot afford to come over to visit. Cutting service is not the way to go. You must look at other ways to fund the system. You and your government are going in the wrong direction.

Good Luck on this one Christie. If you continue on this line of thinking we will be left with just a few ferries back and forth on all routes and still losing money. Look outside of the box!! Slot machines, really!

S22

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 22:17  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Feedback & Question

Hello Premier Christy Clark,

I have concerns regarding the announcement to cut seniors free fares on BC ferries Monday - Thursday. It is just one more cut to seniors in B.C. which is unfair.

I would like to add, BC ferries is an extension of our highways and should be affordable for all British Columbians.

Why does the Sea to Sky highway not have a toll? Most of the people driving on it are high income and can afford to contribute. Why do bridges and in the past the Coquihalla highway have tolls and not Sea to Sky?

If the ferries were more affordable, there would be more ridership both from locals and tourists.

The idea of slot machines is ludicrous as it is promoting 'addiction' and we all know there are not enough addiction treatment centres affordable to people.

Perhaps the government officials should have a cap on wages and spending rather than having the poorly managed ferry system deficit being paid by the tax payers of B.C. and tourists.

Horseshoe Bay terminal upgrade idea - why spend millions more on this upgrade when Duke Point ferry is very rarely full? Eliminate it for car traffic and run a foot passenger ferry.

Respectfully submitted,

S22

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 20:35  
To: todd.stone.mla@leg.bc.ca; Clark.MLA, Christy LASS:EX; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: No to slots on BC Ferries

Dear Mr. Stone

With a young family, I am concerned about the future of my little girl. This future does not include increased access to gambling. Gambling is addictive and destructive to families. It should not be allowed anywhere near a facility that many families must use for essential transportation such as a BC Ferry.

Raising fares and adding gimmicks is counterproductive. My young small business owning family stopped traveling on the ferry system due to the rising cost 3-4 years ago. I would love to travel more on the coast, but as a young family living, we cannot afford to.

Perhaps there is a correlation between increasing fares and decreased revenue.

One suggestion would be to sell fares like hotels and airlines do. The more popular times to travel could be more expensive than the off peak times. This would distribute the passenger load. Increase sales at on board restaurants and provide lower cost options for those people willing to travel during less desirable times.

S22

Vancouver

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 18:38  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: BC Ferries

If you want my vote again next election you will fix the ferry problem without hurting BC residents or tourism/trade.

No matter what anyone says it is an extension of our highways.

No highway makes money so what makes the ferries any different?

And ditch the gambling idea, we have enough addicts already.

There is lots of money wasted in government, find it there.

If you need to study an example of what works just look at Washington State Ferries, it's not rocket science.

S22  
Sechelt, B.C.

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 7:33 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Gambling on BC Ferries

Dear Premier,

I am writing as I am absolutely appalled that you are allowing gambling on BC Ferries!!!!  
It is disgusting that young people will be exposed to this temptation every time they take a ferry trip. As a parent I expected more from you. Your job as premier is to show as ethical and moral leadership, otherwise we may as well have Rob Ford as our provincial premier.

I recommend you see the November 19, 2013 Adrian Raeside Times Colonist cartoon. British Columbians do not want gambling on our ferries!!!!!!!

Yours sincerely,

S22  
Victoria, BC

Sent from my iPad

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 8:39 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: b.c. ferry fare changes

Dear Premier Clark

What is happening to our ferries? I have lived in Victoria since S22 and I am seriously concerned with the management of our water highway. I have fond memories of family trips to Vancouver and the islands and have no recollection that the cost was an issue. I was a S22 and even with transporting livestock, I have no recollection of the cost being an issue.

Now that I am a newly minted senior, I plan to take day trips around the islands with my siblings, walking groups and grandchildren. With my precious BC Bus Pass and free ferries I can enjoy an affordable healthy outing.

Cutting out free fare for seniors is "taking from Peter to feed Paul" . This will have a negative financial impact for B.C. and its seniors.

Less seniors will travel... which will definitely impact tourism. Seniors may travel for free but they do spend money.

Lower quality of life for seniors and their families will have a far reaching impact on the health system and the economy.

Believe me, you are not saving money...you are losing it!

Introducing gambling will not only cost the health system far more than you receive, it will also draw parents away from their families on what was meant to be a family holiday.

If you make these cuts...where do you cut next year? Where does it end?

Sincerely

S22

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 10:11  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Cc: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX  
Subject: BC Ferries Announcements

Dear Premier,

Despite sending two messages to your minister of transport and receiving only the automated return I am now writing to you as his appointee.  
Despite David Hahn and the latest BC wonder appointee BC Ferries stumbles from year to year.

The minister tries to display a lot of bravado over the BC Ferries announcements but let us be sure this one is not going away!

Incompetence

Where is a real analysis of the cost and revenue drivers for BC Ferries lets see them!

Bonus payment criteria for normal job tasks, is a safety plan and its implementation not a function of any corporation?

Producing a long term plan for the government! is it not the function of a corporation to have a short term and long term rolling plan anyway?

I could go on about the bonus criteria but will spare you that.

I suggest a new bonus plan-

Do your job properly and the carrot is you still have a job.

Do it poorly you do not have a job.

Fairness

Reducing midweek cheap fares for Seniors (only passenger not vehicle), okay in fact get rid of it totally. Unfortunately diminishing returns will ensure the stated savings will not be achieved. If your minister needs clarification of "diminishing returns" I will gladly enlighten him.

Fairness to the real customers (yes that includes seniors) - "BC Ferries Employees are entitled to unlimited personal travel (That includes the higher revenue item, namely the vehicle) . Spouses and family members are entitled to 24 one-way trips a year! I guess your talk tough minister was not willing to talk tough when an element of collective bargaining is involved! I understand that perk applies for a lifetime after only 10 years service.

If the small amount from the seniors reduction is going to cut it the minister is a fool - how about Pareto's rule commonly called the 80/20 rule. Does this line item fall into the 80 category in either revenue or cost? The Ferry service is facing historically low ridership , wonder why?

### Ministerial Oversight

The tough talk minister "I didn't run for office to shy away from tough decisions" who allows BC ferries to stop bonus payments and roll them into salaries ( somebody having a laugh at the public expense), this is really disgusting disregard for the public intelligence. What is the long term liability to BC Ferries on this slight of the hand trick? Some minister does not know the meaning of tough decisions and where the problems really reside.

### Moral Compass

We want a good ferry service not floating casinos, how about some other terrible ideas such as strip clubs, adult movie shows "no kids allowed ". You know the management is not up to it when they try to float this stupid idea again. I am no prude but where is the moral compass of this government? Sort out the core business or pay Washington Ferries to run it.

Regards

S22



From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 10:07  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Cc: david.eby.mla@leg.bc.ca  
Subject: Ferry fares and slots

Premier Clark,  
I would like to offer my opinion on recent BC Ferries fare changes.

First, I think it is appropriate that seniors are charged for riding ferries. Seniors generally have sufficient income to be able to afford the ferry cost or, they can choose to not ride the ferries in their retirement. We cannot continue to shift cost away from the older generation onto the younger generation. I am currently 60, so this statement is not in my self-interest.

Second, I think it has long been very unfair to families to charge full adult fare for children 12 and older on BC Ferries. This was particularly egregious under previous fare rates when seniors could ride ferries for no charge. Children should receive discounted rates until the age of 18 to remove some burden on young families that have very high costs and often small incomes.

Third, I very strongly oppose the concept of putting slot machines on ferries. Gambling is a false economy that creates benefits for one sector while adding social costs to the rest of society. The more gambling is accessible, the more people will become addicted and the more children will be hurt by their parents bad habits. I oppose all gambling in BC, but in particular, I strongly oppose gambling in public places where people gather for other purposes. If we must have gambling, keep it in casinos so most people are not exposed to it in the course of their normal activities.

Thank you for considering these viewpoints.

Sincerely.

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S22

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 09:46  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: ferries

Hello Ms. Clark

I am a resident of Prince Rupert and have taken BC ferries all of my life. When my grown children were young we went on the ferry every summer from Prince Rupert to Port Hardy. The cost was slightly higher than driving but since my husband often could not go it was the only way for a young mother with S22 children to make the 1000 mile trip to Vancouver. The ferries were always full in the summer and you had to make your reservation early.

In the past few years I have rarely taken the ferry. It has simply been priced out of the market. When we have taken the ferry, it has almost always been when we were going to see a S22

S22 in Vancouver. The cost of the ferry is then S22 S22 During these trips the number of cars on deck has always been fewer than 30. And many of the other riders were also taking S22. The boat is nearly empty of people and some of the facilities are not operational. Since it costs nearly as much to run the boat empty as full this makes NO SENSE! Lower the cost, fill the boat and make a stab at making a profit.

Last summer a friend with a family of three wanted to make a return trip on the ferry from Prince Rupert to Port Hardy and the cost---without a stateroom was \$1863.00!! And once you get to Port Hardy you need a hotel room since the ferry arrives at 10:30 at night. Then you need to spend the next day getting to Vancouver--spending money on gas, food and an additional ferry. Additional costs. Therefore most people in my community either drive or fly. It is the CHEAPER option. The ferry route was intended to be a highway extension, not a holiday destination for wealthy European visitors. Those adds about Ferry Vacations make my teeth grind.

Please think about my remarks. We are already isolated in the north. At times the road is closed for days between Prince and Terrace for a variety of reasons and sometimes the planes don't fly for days at a time. We are then totally isolated. We NEED the northern ferry service and we need it to be a reasonable option not an overpriced cruise line.

As for the slot machines!!!!!! Why does your government want to turn our province into a community of gamblers? Many people who can ill afford to gamble do so. And deleting senior rates makes no sense either. Especially on holiday weekends. Many seniors will travel before or after the holiday thereby decreasing the crush at the ferries. This initiative will only decrease ridership overall and add to the difficulties on the long weekends.

I have written before about the overpriced northern route costs. Have someone look at the history of ridership and you will be able to see that when prices started jumping up, ridership went down. No one can afford to ride it.

Sincerely

S22