

Minister of Transport



Ministre des Transports

JUL 26 2021

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

Ms. Sarah Duncan
President
Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce
2711 Island Highway West
Qualicum Beach BC V9K 2C4

MINISTER'S OFFICE
RECEIVED

AUG 03 2021

REF # _____ REFER TO _____
REPLY DIRECT ☐ DRAFT REPLY ☐ INFO/FILE ☐

Dear Ms. Duncan:

The Prime Minister's Office provided me with your correspondence, written on behalf of the Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce, requesting that the Government of Canada provide financial support for BC Ferries' Island Class Electrification Program. Please accept my apology for the delay in replying.

Mitigating climate change and supporting Canada's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic are key priorities for this government. That is why, on December 11, 2020, Canada released its strengthened climate plan, A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy (https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/climate-change/climate-plan/healthy_environment_healthy_economy_plan.pdf). As part of this plan, the Government of Canada will work with stakeholders to accelerate clean technology development; support pilot deployments to de-risk clean technology adoption by industry; and provide support to encourage the implementation of commercially ready solutions. The government will also examine options to support the deployment of low-carbon fuel equipment at marine, rail and aviation hubs. Moreover, the strengthened climate plan introduced the Strategic Innovation Fund's new Net Zero Accelerator fund to provide significant investments aimed at expediting decarbonization projects with large emitters, scale-up clean technology and accelerate Canada's industrial transformation across all sectors. My mandate letter further underscores the government's commitment to make Canada's major ports among the cleanest and most efficient in the world. Engagement and consultation to explore these opportunities will take place in the coming months. These efforts, and others, may all be leveraged in support of BC Ferries' Island Class Electrification Program.

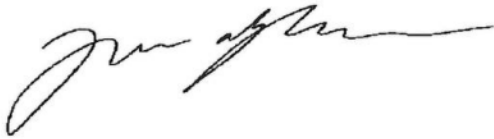
Furthermore, Canada is developing a Blue Economy Strategy (<https://dfo-mpo.gc.ca/campaign-campagne/bes-seb/index-eng.html>) to promote economic growth in ocean-based industries and coastal communities while advancing environmental objectives. The Secretariat, led by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, began the consultation process in March and the feedback received will inform the development of this whole-of-government strategy, scheduled to be released in late fall.

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I understand that BC Ferries has been communicating directly with Transport Canada officials regarding its plans. I look forward to learning about the progress of these discussions. Moreover, I have forwarded your letter to the Honourable Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, and the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, for their information and consideration.

Thank you for writing and sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Omar Alhabra, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport

c.c. The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

The Honourable Rob Fleming, M.L.A.
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, British Columbia