



November 16, 2023

Office of the Honorable Pablo Rodriguez  
Minister of Transport  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

Re: Proposed Digby Saint John Ferry Disruption

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The West Nova Chamber of Commerce was incorporated on July 1, 2023. We are an active non profit organization. Our mission is to empower, connect and advocate on behalf of the local business community and Chamber members. We seek to promote and enhance Digby County and greater West Nova by providing resources, advocacy, education and networking opportunities which foster economic growth. Our vision is to be viewed as a key player and catalyst for economic prosperity.

### **Proposed Ferry Disruption – MV Fundy Rose**

A spokesperson from Transport Canada confirmed to CBC News that the MV Fundy Rose is being considered for redeployment to Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine for the spring of 2024. We understand that this decision is to facilitate the dry dock of the MV Madeleine II which requires repairs.

We have a number of questions that our members and the community of greater West Nova and Saint John NB have with respect to the proposed ferry disruption:

1. What is the current policy direction and or regulation governing the Ferry Services Contribution Program and responsibility for regularly schedule maintenance to Crown owned vessels?
2. Has the policy formulation or direction with respect to ferry service or maintaining ferry assets been amended or updated in the last 24 months?
3. Do the funding agreements for private inter -provincial ferry operators in Atlantic Canada and Eastern Quebec assign responsibility of maintenance of the vessels to the private operator?

4. What terms and conditions within the funding agreement with Bay Ferries Limited is being enacted to remove the MV Fundy Rose from its operations at Digby-Saint John?
5. Has the Minister forwarded a written decision or Notice to Bay Ferries Limited which calls for the redeployment of the asset MV Fundy Rose?
6. What legislative authority is the Minister relying on to redeploy the MV Fundy Rose from Digby Saint John to Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine?
7. Are there any legislative intersections between the *Canada Marine Act* and regulations, *Canada Shipping Act* and *Canada Transportation Act* impacting this decision-making process.
8. What communications, if any, has the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Madame LeBoutillier, had with the Minister of Transport of Canada with respect to this decision?
9. Given the inspection and maintenance requirements for ferry vessels, what has the Minister done to address the long term stability of the ferry service in Digby Saint John and Îles-de-la-Madeleine?
10. Given the unique circumstances facing both communities with respect to ferry service, will the Minister accept responsibility to spearhead a long term solution to this issue and ensure that sufficient ferry vessels are procured?

We respectfully request the Minister provide the requested information for a clear understanding of the proposed administrative actions being taken. We would like to be afforded an opportunity to present information for your consideration regarding proposed action to potentially disrupt the Digby-Saint John ferry service.

Yours truly,

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Dan F. White

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MP Wayne Long NB  
MLA Jill Balser - MLA Digby-Annapolis  
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