



June 25, 2018

The Honourable Claire Trevena

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
PO Box 9055, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

SUBJECT: Request to consider free ferry travel for all public school students of BC when traveling for school events

Dear Minister Trevena,

We'd like to thank you for the work that's being done with regards the mandate letter dated July 18, 2017 for a comprehensive operating review of the coastal ferry services in our province.

For your consideration, I'd like to bring forward resolutions passed by members of the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) at past Annual General Meetings regarding coastal ferry services that affect the daily lives and school activities of our province's public school students and staff:

- *That BCSTA urge the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to adopt a province-wide policy of free travel on BC Ferries for all BC students travelling for school functions. (Annual General Meeting 2015)*
- *That BCSTA urge the Ministry of Transportation to adopt a province wide policy of free travel on BC Ferries for all BC students traveling for school functions. (Annual General Meeting 2010)*

Our resolution was first adopted in 2010, and since then there has been some changes made by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to rearrange the fee schedule on select routes to subsidize student travel. However, the fee schedule is still not equitable to all school districts in that the BC resident assistance program does not waive transportation fees on certain routes. For example, all Sunshine Coast School District students are able to travel free of charge for school events (e.g. band groups and soccer teams that travel to the Lower Mainland for events), but Powell River School District students are still charged for travel to Vancouver Island where they participate in the majority of their school extracurricular activities.

BCSTA would like to ask the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to address all such inequities in student transportation via coastal ferry services. Your attention to this would go a long way in supporting student success and fostering of equitable access to programs for students across B.C.

Thank you for considering our request and we look forward to any future dialogue on this important issue.

Yours truly,

Gordon Swan
President

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, *Minister of Education*