



# A FAIR FUTURE FOR OUR FERRIES

2025 federal election kit





# YOUR VOICE MATTERS

During this federal election, candidates may be reaching out in your community, knocking on doors or attending local events. This is your chance to raise issues that matter to ferry workers and coastal communities.

Our ferries are essential infrastructure—but they're underfunded, aging and increasingly unreliable.

You have the power to ask the tough questions and make our priorities heard.

Talk to candidates. Attend events. Ask questions. Here's what you can say.

Your advocacy can make a real difference.





# FERRIES ARE LIFELINES. FUND THEM LIKE IT.

Ferries are lifelines for coastal communities and should be treated like highways or public transit—essential and publicly supported.

- BC Ferries serves 47 terminals, transporting over 21 million passengers and 9 million vehicles annually.
- Ferry service connects people to healthcare, education, jobs and work.
- During COVID-19, ferries were designated essential services, highlighting their critical role.
- BC Ferries carries an estimated \$8 billion in cargo annually.

## **QUESTION FOR CANDIDATES**

Do you support treating BC Ferries as essential infrastructure deserving of sustained equitable federal investment?





# OUR FERRIES ARE FALLING APART

Many vessels are dangerously old.  
Breakdowns and service disruptions are growing  
— federal action is overdue.

- 11 vessels are over 45 years old; the oldest is 60.
- The average age of the fleet is over 30 years.
- A 60-year-old ferry recently lost a propeller mid-sailing and was out of service for 6 months.
- Breakdowns ripple through the system— affecting travel, freight and safety.

## QUESTION FOR CANDIDATES

What will your party do to support fleet renewal and marine safety?





# B.C. DESERVES FAIR FUNDING

B.C.'s ferries receives far less federal funding than other transportation systems.

- BC Ferries receives about \$30 million annually in federal support.
- VIA Rail received over \$380 million in operational funding in 2023-2024.
- Marine Atlantic received almost \$130 million for operational funding in 2024.
- BC Ferries carries 5x more passengers than VIA Rail.

## **QUESTION FOR CANDIDATES**

Will your party commit to fair and proportional funding for BC Ferries?





# WORKERS NEED A VOICE

Ferry workers are on the front lines of safety. We need a say in key decisions affecting safety and staffing. Workers know the risks. Excluding them leads to shortcuts and safety gaps.

- Unions are not required to sign off on Minimum Safe Manning (MSM) levels.
- High summer passenger volumes mean more people to evacuate—but MSM levels don't scale up.

## QUESTION FOR CANDIDATES

Will you support a requirement for union sign-off on MSM levels for passenger ferries?





# ABOUT US

The BC Ferry & Marine Workers' Union (BCFMWU) represents more than 4,500 dedicated ferry and marine workers in British Columbia. From deckhands and terminal attendants to engineers, stewards and more—our members keep B.C. moving.

We believe ferries are public infrastructure and must be safe, reliable and accessible for everyone. We fight for fairness, transparency and respect—for ferry workers and the communities we serve.

This election, your voice matters.

Together, we can advocate for a stronger marine system—built on safety, inclusion, investment and respect.

[bcfmwu.com](http://bcfmwu.com)



*We acknowledge the homelands of the Indigenous Peoples of this place we now call British Columbia and honour the many territorial keepers of the lands on which we work.*