

RE: Proposed Cable Ferry for Denman Island.

Dear Ms. Trevena,

I am writing to you as one concerned islander to another. BCFC is still pushing ahead with the plan for a cable ferry to Denman Island. This project started as an alternate service provider project and should have been scrapped along with the ASP process by the commissioner. BCFC apparently are basing the Denman cable ferry concept on the interior cable ferries. In no way are the two comparable in distance, weather, salt vs fresh water, vessel size, passenger safety requirements, traffic volume and crew requirements.

While TC has very little in the way of regulation on cable ferries, they still must assure the safety of the public *but* so must the provincial government. BCFC is ignoring pertinent weather information regarding winds and wave action in Baynes Sound gathered by the crew of the MV Quinita. BCFC has chosen to ignore concerns raised in the EYE report to them regarding the hull stability and design of the proposed ferry.

BCFC has not adequately planned for cable failures, nor have they developed a cost effective plan for routine changing of the cables. And yet despite the lack of planning for basic and necessary routine maintenance of the cables, the size of the cables and the many concerns raised, they are pushing ahead.

BCFC is casting itself as a “world leader” in cable ferry technology without having a firm design, without any practical experience, and without a vessel in the water.

Both Denman and Hornby Islands residents have rejected this proposal on every level and at every BCFC public “consultation” – and yet we have been utterly abandoned to this transportation experiment by BCFC via the provincial government’s failure to act. Unlike every other cable ferry operating in B.C. and across Canada, we have no alternate route to our homes and jobs.

The projected cost savings of 19 million (17 if you take off the 2 million already spent) will never be realized over the *40 years* it will take to accrue the “savings” that are almost entirely based on crew size reductions. BCFC management said in a public meeting on Denman Island that “ you can make any project work if you throw enough money at it”. This answer in response to concerned questions over seismic testing on the Buckley Bay side of Baynes Sound that apparently indicated deep deposits of alluvial mud where the supporting structure would be located.

We have a vessel perfectly suited to our route. The MV Quinita has been put forward as a replacement vessel by BCFC despite professional opinion stated in public meetings that she is not well suited for other routes due to her power ratio and hull configuration. There are rumours about a rebuild of the MV Tenaka that would remove one of the main stated reasons for the cable ferry project.

Please, please raise these concerns to anyone within government who will actually listen. The opportunity to stop this project is very short, as BCFC proposes to sign construction contracts this summer. The Legislature is in session. ***How will the party that this island has always supported assure that we have a safe and normal ferry service?***

Please visit <http://www.sendinthecloves.info/> to access up to date technical data that emphasizes the many concerns about this project.

Laura Pope
Denman Island