



July 18, 2023

Garth Gillis, Mayor
Rural Municipality of Belfast
13056 Shore Road - Unit 103,
Wood Islands, PE C0A 1R0

Dear Mayor Gillis,

Thank you for your letter of June 27, 2023, outlining the concerns the Rural Municipality of Belfast has with the disruption in ferry services in Wood Islands.

Given the recent and past interruptions in ferry services during the most critical times for Island tourism, I certainly understand and echo your concerns. I assure you that I have brought these concerns directly to the Prime Minister, and I have spoken with the Minister Omar Alghabra, Transport Canada, and Minister Lawrence MacAulay, Veterans Affairs and Member of Parliament for Cardigan. In these meetings I have been clear on the significant impact of the disruption in service and called for urgent action to restore ferry services in a timely manner.

While we are pleased that service has been restored, we remain committed to advocating for a service with two reliable ferries going forward. I have asked for the federal government for their plans to prevent future service interruptions, maintain this critical infrastructure and ensure confidence in our transportation system, including timelines to replace the MV Holiday Island. I have also noted our concerns that despite the fact that the MV Confederation is already 30 years old, the new ferry promised in the 2019 budget is still in the design phase and is not expected to be ready until 2028.

I will continue to urge the federal government to uphold their constitutional obligations to Prince Edward Island and its people to maintain a continuous communication and service between the province and the mainland, which has been recognized in the Confederation Bridge Transportation Continuity Plan.

I have included my recent correspondence with the Prime Minister and Minister of Transport for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DKing".

Hon. Dennis King
Premier of Prince Edward Island

Encl.