



# *Rural Municipality of Belfast*

Mayor: Garth Gillis; Chief Administrative Officer: Bob Brooks  
*Incorporated 1972*

## **Public Meeting – Hosted by The Eastern PEI Chamber of Commerce**

**RMB Report Regarding:** Wood Islands & Caribou Crossing – Northumberland Ferries Ltd.

**Date:** Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Time:** 3pm – 5pm

**Attendees representing RMB:** Councillor Trisha Carter      Administration Ashley Feschuk

Rural Municipality is on the “Ferry Task Force” with the Eastern PEI Chamber of Commerce but was not notified of this meeting and therefore not involved in the planning of it. Administration spoke with EPCC and stated that going forward that the Rural Municipality of Belfast would like to be included in all ferry discussions so that we could support the process and provide insights from our community, no matter how urgent the timeline.

**Purpose:** The Chamber wanted to hear from any and all stakeholders, businesses, personal and community organizations in regards to the recent events involving the ferry service between Wood Islands, PEI and Caribou, NS.

**Introduction** - Alan Buchanan served as moderator for this meeting.

Blair Aitken – Chamber President announced that the Chamber would like to create an impact report, take it out of politics and create a committee.

**RMB requested clarification on the committee since RMB was under the impression we were on one already with the Chamber.**

Estimated losses \$500 million

200 Ferry Cancellations in 2024 - Early AM Crossings and Late PM Crossings Unavailable in 2024

30% Increase in the cost of goods to Islanders

MP Lawrence MacAulay sent a letter to the Eastern PEI Chamber of Commerce

**RMB has requested a copy of this letter**

## **Guest Panelists**

Brian Fortune – Bill & Stanley Oyster Co. (35 years Aquaculture Co.)

30,000 extra so far to use the bridge

Many business models incorporate the ferry into their business models and added expenses are not budgeted into the fiscal years.

Economic viability

Chris MacKay Executive Director of Atlantic Truckers Association

350 members in 4 Provinces

Cargo is time sensitive

Supply change disruptions

Increased Mileage/Fuel

\$400-500 per trip/truck = 9 million per year

Job losses, reduced operations and increased environmental emissions

