



# *Rural Municipality of Belfast (RMB)*

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

## **ESSENTIAL TWO-FERRY SERVICE AT WOOD ISLANDS**

March 27, 2025

### **Attn: All Federal Parties**

In the past week, there have been positive verbal commitments from some of the Federal Parties to reduce or possibly eliminate rates for the Confederation Bridge and the Wood Islands Ferry. The Rural Municipality of Belfast requests from ALL Federal parties a firm commitment to the continuation of a sustainable two-ferry service at Wood Islands, and to equally match any subsidies provided for the Confederation Bridge to the Wood Islands Ferry Service.

Once support for a Sustainable Two-Ferry Service is declared by any or All Federal Election Parties, the Rural Municipality of Belfast will be happy to use all media at our disposal to promote these announcements.

The Rural Municipality of Belfast confirms that reducing or eliminating these rates would benefit all the residents and businesses of Prince Edward Island, but it would especially benefit all the residents and businesses of the Eastern areas of PEI!

A sustainable two-ferry service at Wood Islands is essential for the success of all businesses in the eastern areas of PEI and is an integral link for a healthy and vibrant tourism industry in PEI and Nova Scotia.

It is rumored that some Federal Parties believe it is appropriate to cancel the Wood Islands Ferry Service altogether. The Rural Municipality of Belfast is adamant that PEI needs both a sustainable two-ferry service and the Confederation Bridge to properly, and effectively service all of PEI, and act as a link to the rest of Canada.

The Rural Municipality of Belfast requests equal support for a sustainable two-ferry service at Wood Islands. We are asking for a firm commitment from ALL Federal Parties in this upcoming Election to ensure that PEI will retain both integral services and that any federal studies currently being done, or are being proposed, will be tools used to assist and further enhance the systems currently in place and not as a means to abolish services in the future.

The ferry service at Wood Islands is critical to the continued operations of our municipality, of our businesses, and of visitors and tourists to and from our island!

Businesses on the eastern side of the island are supplied by transport trucks from businesses throughout our municipality and across the island, traveling on this ferry service. Additionally, residents across the island use the ferry to travel to Nova Scotia to see family or seek required medical care in Halifax. This can save people many, many hours of travel time which in some cases is critical and time-sensitive.

Over the past year, the Rural Municipality of Belfast has launched Shop Belfast PEI to promote tourism to the eastern area of the Island, to help offset the various issues Northumberland Ferry has been dealing with that have greatly reduced tourist traffic to this area. These issues and shut downs impressed upon everyone how integral the ferry service is to our area and the whole Island.

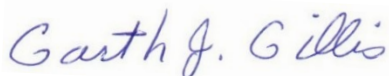
The Rural Municipality of Belfast recently supported the Eastern Chamber of Commerce's initiative to launch an economic impact study to show how much the eastern portion of the Island impacts the economy of the entire Island. The study is due to report soon.

Again, the Rural Municipality of Belfast is urgently requesting your assistance and support for a sustainable two-ferry service at Wood Islands to keep our local economy thriving.

The Rural Municipality of Belfast Council is meeting on April 16th. We invite any representatives to attend our meeting and speak to where you stand on this crucial issue. We await further updates on actions your Federal Party is recommending, and we will update our local area residents at our live-streamed Council Meetings and on our media sites.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mayor Garth Gillis

Rural Municipality of Belfast

cc: Honourable Rob Lantz - Premier - Government of Prince Edward Island  
Honourable Steven Myers - Minister of Housing Land and Communities  
Honourable Ernie Hudson - Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Honourable Cory Deagle - Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Trade  
Honourable Zack Bell - Minister of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport and Culture  
Honourable Darlene Compton - MLA - Belfast/Murray River  
All Federal Party Candidates for Cardigan Riding, PEI  
Northumberland Ferries - PEI  
Director Eastern Chamber of Commerce Russel Compton  
Eastern Graphic - Reporter Josh Lewis  
Council - Rural Municipality of Belfast  
CAO Bob Brooks - Rural Municipality of Belfast

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