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**March. 2025, HICEEC First Edition**

**Community Marketing – Your Time is Up!**
The final inputs are being made on this year’s Visitor Guide. Those that have subscribed will be part of a collaborative marketing effort that amplifies the Hornby message: “What you do matters”, promoting respectful tourism and encouraging visitors to engage with our island thoughtfully and with care. Thank you to those that chose to showcase their business while supporting sustainable tourism.

**MRDT Funds Hitting the Streets**

Funds collected through Municipal Regional District Tax—the “pillow tax” collected from visitors—can be used for events, sports, and initiatives. Grants are now available. Visit [**https://hiceec.org/mrdt**](https://hiceec.org/mrdt) for the information package.

**Land for Homes: A Vision for the Future**

At the close of 2024, HICEEC submitted an exciting proposal for 10 hectares of Crown Land, ideally situated across from the Firehall. This site holds great promise as a future home for the hardworking people of Hornby. The vision is to create a vibrant housing neighbourhood through a private/public partnership, where affordable homes can be seamlessly integrated into the area. With the right infrastructure in place, families can bring their own homes to this beautiful location. Additionally, there is space for staff accommodation, offering housing solutions for local employers and their dedicated workers, right from B.C. Ferries to the Coop Store. The Island cannot thrive without homes for the people who work here. This initiative is a crucial step in ensuring a sustainable and resilient future for our community.

**In the Nick of Time**

The HICEEC application to secure 10 hectares of Crown land for Workforce Housing was submitted at the end of 2024. The Rogers Cell Tower application for installation, on this same piece of property, predated the HICEEC application. However, the HICEEC application was submitted in time to be considered in the review of the Rogers application. We are optimistic that workforce housing is a higher community priority than a cell tower in that location, and that the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship will concur with that priority. But time will tell.

**The Ferries: Don’t Sink the Boat of Public Opinion**

In November, BC Ferries announced the retirement of the community Ferry Advisory Committees (FAC), which have been essential in facilitating direct engagement between ferry staff and the individual communities they serve for over 30 years.

In their last gasps of breath as appointees, the Ferry Advisory Committee is asking for Community Solidarity. Here are their points to come together on:

1. Engagement must be grass routes, transparent, and inclusive. Any new model needs representation, similar to the FAC system, from our local organizations and government representatives.
2. Time to quit treating Hornby Island as the “runt of the litter”. With the oldest vessel in the ferry dependent minor routes, and the least amount of pre-depreciation government subsidy, we deserve more. As the community articulated in the 2022 video: [**https://youtu.be/AKoU65O7WJE**](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FAKoU65O7WJE%3Ffbclid%3DIwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR1vUOSZ118BXdlOocu_jmvVkgRy7g5wdprfgtOJErmmVXtdmSIq8-IJub0_aem_nuRS9nSuGmH38C_0zGTCMA&h=AT1yGbjjw780zzsDjby8iiDE5-Iq26VJBPxdUyvoEOjXx6wcIOSfW2pHKCCmw2Do0BBOwTF4-9uq2S0WLbirccb7M1iuiXxuhj7lZcdN3KVfPaUyrzlnbYfBmmpEIpOLYA&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT3pGbKROZRE3C2SS7pVpCxw9beqN5Xjk0-44rGCJ1mNwKd-HXDTk36oief1Pju4ri5FEwE-L_pwPaGbHCR3g0N5F3FGwXD3rWG_QtUI1ArRYvtIjoywoL1qAtqDYjxPJgkvfp7enU3Qh8Bb842HZqF16tsjjIh56QnzInhqBeg0KZ6ggLXatLroAS-86lytXc0wH5GVOxb3nG1gi-4YT-BVsFraiC1GwcK4)

It’s time for us to stand up and voice our concerns. If we don’t, we risk being left with fewer answers and less involvement in decisions that affect our lives. Our community deserves better, and it’s up to us to demand accountability and solutions.

You can write to:

* Premier David Eby - premier@gov.bc.ca
* Minister Mike Farnworth (Transportation & Transit) - Minister.MOTI@gov.bc.ca
* Josie Osborne - Josie.Osborne.MLA@leg.bc.ca
* BC Ferry Authority Board - info@bcferryauthority.com
* Eva Hage, BC Ferry Commissioner - info@bcferrycommission.ca
* Nicolas Jiminez, BC Ferries CEO - nicolas.jimenez@bcferries.com
* Claire Trevena, BCF Authority Board mid-island rep.: ClaireTrevena@bcferryauthority.com

**Submitted on behalf of the volunteer Board:**
John Heinegg, John Grayson, Jack Hornstein, Katherine Ronan, Donna Tuele, Sheila McDonnell, Stu Amos, and Marilyn Kopansky