

NEWS RELEASE – from the FACC (Ferry Advisory Committee Chairs)

Announced Ferry Fare Hikes Understated, Impact Well Over 100%

27 SEPTEMBER 2007 – Recent reports of ferry fare increases understate the actual impact on riders. When increases are applied to actual routes, fares will jump as high as 120% from the time the government restructured BC Ferries in 2003.

A range of figures has been reported recently. These are increases to fare caps, which apply to entire Route Groups. When the fare cap figures are applied to actual routes and current pre-paid ticket fares – the tickets used by the majority of coastal residents – the numbers show dramatically larger increases.

As an example, a parent and two children travelling from Alert Bay to Port Hardy for swimming lessons will pay 97% more in ferry costs in 2011, than they did in 2003.

- \$15.52 in April 2003
- \$22.90 currently
- \$30.60 in April 2011.

Most other routes show greater increases. Examples are in the Backgrounder attached. A full list of route fare increases and calculations are available by sending a reply email.

The Ferry Advisory Committee chairs (FACC) expect fares to increase even more than these figures, because they are designed to reflect any change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as well as further increases in fuel prices.

The FACC speak for ferry-dependent communities along the length of the BC coast. Residents in those communities ask government to consider the essential role of ferry transportation in filling basic needs and in supporting tourism and small business.

The FACC urges government to heed the calls and moderate the push toward user-pay service, which is driving the unprecedented increases. The FACC note that the cost of increasing baseline government contribution – which has not changed since 2003 – is a small expenditure relative to the benefits it would bring to British Columbians.

Sample Fares at <http://facc.gabriola.org/>

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