

COASTAL COUNCIL **PROPOSED BUSINESS PLAN**

July 2001 – December 2002

From the meeting of the Coastal Council on June 7 and 8 in Parksville, the Council decided on its course of action over the next 18 months. This report outlines the proposed plan and its priorities.

Coastal Council Priorities:

The Council identified its main priorities over the next 18 months. These included the following areas of focus:

- ◆ functioning and structure of the Coastal Council;
 - ◆ co-ordinated transportation planning and infrastructure development;
 - ◆ finance and service levels;
 - ◆ community economic development;
 - ◆ governance and legislation.
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1. Functioning and Structure of the Coastal Council

Goal of the Coastal Council

To develop an effective and independent Coastal Council where all members actively participate and communicate the activities of the Council with their constituents and vice versa.
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Primary Responsibility

Co-ordinating Committee and Terms of Reference Committee
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Tasks

Council discussed four important topics: role and independence of the Council; relationship with the new government; communications; and membership.
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A. Role and Independence of the Council
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The Coastal Council agreed to fully support its current role as described in the mandate section of its terms of reference – i.e., Section 2.2.

The Coastal Council is formed independent of BC Ferries to:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● advise BC Ferries;● raise and pursue issues pertaining to inter-island, northern and mainland ferry services, with particular attention to ferry dependent communities and areas; |
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- make recommendations on how BC Ferries should respond to major and interdependent issues, in the form of original written reports to the Board of Directors and the President, with a copy to the Minister responsible for the Corporation;
- make recommendations on government policies affecting BC Ferries, in the form of original written reports to the Minister responsible for the Corporation, with a copy to the Board of Directors and President;
- provide information and encourage effective communication between stakeholder representatives and their organizations and/or communities and act as community representatives (along with Tier 1 groups);
- provide effective communication between the Coastal Council, the Board of Directors and the Corporation;
- manage and maintain its terms of reference.

B. Relationship with the New Government

The Coastal Council agreed to develop an effective relationship with the new government by having the:

- Co-ordinating Committee meet with the new Minister in early July to discuss the role and function of the Coastal Council; to discuss the main priorities of the Council and its business plan; and to invite the Minister to the next meeting in October 2001.
- Chair send a letter to the Premier (as well as prepare a news release) congratulating him on the appointment of an integrated Ministry of Transportation.
- Chair send a letter to the new Minister of Transportation regarding:
 - supporting the expansion of the Horseshoe Bay terminal;
 - requesting active participation in the National Transportation Strategy;
 - developing an external advisory committee or commission for implementing an integrated transportation plan.

C. Communications

The Coastal Council expressed the importance of developing effective communications with members, with all Tier 1 groups and with the media. This will be achieved by:

- being proactive and speaking out for communities;
- surveying local communities to identify what are the critical planning issues;
- building new networks and partnerships and broadening discussion and actions with others;
- acquiring funding for part-time secretary to the Chair – i.e., members volunteered to pursue this with their local areas for grants in aid (Central Coast Regional District – Jim Hadley; Capital Regional District – Richard Dalon; Skeena/Queen Charlottes – Bruce Ives; Mount Waddington – Hank Bood; Nanaimo Regional District – Steve Wohlleben; Comox-Strathcona – Roxanna Mandryk; and Bowen Island – Luz Budzinski).

D. Membership

The Coastal Council agreed to review its membership. The report by BC Ferries Public Consultation Program outlined specific recommendations regarding the membership of the Council. It stated that there should be two members from each Tier 1 group on the Council.

The Coastal Council disagreed with the proposed membership and discussed what should be an appropriate membership. It was agreed that the Terms of Reference Committee meet and propose what should be the new membership for the Council. This will be recommended at the meeting in October 2001. There was agreement to ask the Islands Trust and the union about their future participation on the Council.

2. Co-ordinated Transportation Planning and Infrastructure Development

Goal of the Coastal Council

To work with the new Provincial government in developing a co-ordinated transportation system that effectively aligns all modes of transportation – e.g., ferries, parking, roads, transit, infrastructure, etc.
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Primary Responsibility

Transportation Planning Committee

Tasks

The Coastal Council stressed the need for a more co-ordinated transportation system in order to provide for an easier and more accessible system for all travellers. They agreed to:
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● request from all the Tier 1 groups what is and is not working in regards to their specific transportation system. Additionally, they agreed to request what needs to be done to make it more accessible and co-ordinated.● write to the Minister and outline how a more co-ordinated transportation system can function. Additionally, they agreed to build upon the needs expressed by the Tier 1 groups and suggest the establishment of an external advisory committee or commission to assist in this goal.● consider a variety of strategies to encourage a more effective, inter-modal transportation system using connecting facilities, different modes of transportation (e.g., bus, ferries, etc.), etc.● examine what other jurisdictions are doing to create a more integrated transportation system. |
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3. Finance and Service Levels

Goal of the Coastal Council

To work co-operatively with BC Ferries in discussing future policy decisions regarding capital replacements and expansion, tariff, service levels and other areas that support the long-term sustainable financial framework and create a more efficient and effective service for all users.

Primary Responsibility

Finance and Service Committee

A. Capital Replacement and Expansion

The Coastal Council will:

- Review buy British Columbia policies, including consideration of buying major components offshore and assembling or fitting them in British Columbia.
- Review 15-year plan for BC Ferries. Priorities for review include:
 - ensuring maintenance of existing capacity by replacing ships as required;
 - planning for expansion of service and increasing demand;
 - working toward ship and system standardization;
 - planning ships to permit expansion of vessels at future date;
 - looking for vessel expansion in the current fleet;
 - planning for spare capacity to cover accidents and breakdowns;
 - working toward dock standardization;
 - planning for appropriate service – e.g., hub and spoke for some mid-coast and northern routes;
 - ensuring appropriate capitalization;
 - ensuring full worldwide research on innovative technologies, especially those that reduce crew requirements such as safety equipment;
 - thinking outside the box, including the box of budget constraint.
- Review to be based on the involvement of Tier 1 groups.

B. Service

The Coastal Council will:

- ensure that future planning is driven by level of service expectations and economic development priorities;
- collect information from Tier 1 groups on level of service expectations and economic development priorities;
- identify the potential for new routes, including public/private partnerships and contract routes;
- identify the potential for a higher than projected growth rate;
- plan service in an innovative manner – e.g., fixed link integration, hub and spoke, local hiring/home porting, public/private partnerships, reduced wage costs, etc.;

- make recommendations on demand management, reservations and reduction of regulation impact.

C. Tariff

The Coastal Council will:

- continue to stand behind the Council's recommended tariff model;
- address issues in service (above);
- consider using demand management to encourage full capacity utilization and to address social policy issues;
- work on discounts, space utilization and social policy issues.

D. Other

The Coastal Council will look at the possibility of electronic procurement in order for BC Ferries to reduce costs.

4. Community Economic Development

Task

That the Coastal Council allocate time at each of its meetings to briefly describe new or innovative community economic development initiatives that are occurring in specific communities. Conchita Harding agreed to co-ordinate this task.

5. Governance and Legislation

Task

That the Coastal Council continue to monitor these two areas so that the work that has been developed can be incorporated in any future deliberations.