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## **Gabriola Ferry Transportation Committee Steps Forward After Disbanded Ferry Advisory Committees**

**Gabriola Island, BC** – Following the decision by BC Ferries in April 2025 to disband the province’s 13 volunteer Ferry Advisory Committees (FACs), members of the Gabriola community have taken steps to ensure that local ferry users still have a voice on ferry related issues.

The **Gabriola Ferry Transportation Committee (GFTC)**, as a working committee of the Gabriola Transportation Society, will continue the advocacy previously carried out by the Gabriola FAC.

“The original FACs were created in the early 1990s to bridge communication between ferry dependent communities and the ferry system,” said Tawny Maclachlan Capon, who served as the first chair of the Gabriola FAC.

“The FACs brought together representatives from across our communities to ensure ferry users were heard.”

Capon eventually served as Vice Chair of the Coastal Council representing ferry-dependent communities; a structure allowed meaningful dialogue between communities and BC Ferries, something that is difficult to replicate through online systems alone.

**Gabriola Transportation Society**

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BC Ferries say it will replace the FACs with online engagement and social media consultation. Members of the Gabriola FTC believe that approach can not adequately replace in-person discussion and consultation.

“The GFTC will continue to represent Gabriolans and keep dialogue moving on issues affecting the island. The committee plans to communicate directly with elected representatives, including the local MLA, the Minister of Transportation, and the CEO of BC Ferries, to ensure the community’s concerns and ideas for improved service are heard.” said Capon.

The committee plans to organize public meetings including BC Ferries’ representatives, where residents can directly share concerns, priorities, and ideas with representatives from BC Ferries.

So far the Ferry Transportation Committee has taken on issues including collecting and delivering 217 community letters about BC Ferries’ Experience Card top up levels, and their policy banning EVs in need of repairs from being transported on ferries.

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