

# Ferry fares public input needed

Island Tides – Oct 16/08

At a public hearing in Courtenay, Tony Law, representing the Ferry Advisory Committee Chairs (FACC) recommended to the Select Committee on Finance and Government Services that the 2009 provincial budget allocate sufficient ongoing funding to rescue the coastal communities from increasingly unaffordable ferry fares, resulting from the government's nine-year freeze on the transportation subsidy at a time when operating costs have soared beyond all expectations.

The FACC presentation states that fares on some coastal routes have more than doubled since 2003. 'These increases are far in excess of what is happening with other modes of transportation,' say FACC.

The amount the province contributes to these routes is scheduled to remain virtually unchanged from 2003 to 2012.

The submission proposes a cash infusion that will enable a roll back in fares. FAC chairpersons strongly encourage ferry users to support this submission by providing their own input to the finance committee. This can take the form of a Word or PDF document attached to an email sent to

FinanceCommittee@leg.bc.ca. Submissions can also be faxed to 250-356-8172. The deadline is October 24. Full information is available at [www.leg.bc.ca/budgetconsultations](http://www.leg.bc.ca/budgetconsultations).