



Box 166 Quathiaski Cove, BC V0P 1N0

Mr. Gordon Macatee

B.C. Ferry Commissioner

On behalf of the artists community of Quadra Island I would like to inform you that the present self-serving structure of the prices imposed by the BC Ferry Corporation is debilitating to our livelihoods and, ultimately, to the survival of the whole community.

As artists, we rely heavily on the tourist traffic to the island. We have observed a steady decline of this traffic since 2003 with a sharp decline during the last two years. Our reliable year-to-year customers refuse to visit the island, claiming the ferry costs to be prohibitive. Reduced bookings to our tourism operators add to the problem. Our arts-oriented bed and breakfast experienced a 50% downturn. Our arts and crafts store is down 25%. Our wholesale business suffers, as the delivery costs of both supplies and finished product have increased by 80% over the last two years. Increased costs of travel to art shows and exhibitions combined with the dwindling numbers of attending customers further cut into our already low profit margin. The estimated decline in sales over the last two years is 30%. As a result, we are forced out of our profession, or forced off of the island. We realize that the ferry prices are only one factor among many, including general recession, inflation, and the price of American dollar. However, the ferry prices are a factor you can change.

Our coastal communities are as much a part of Canada as any other remote community of this country served by highways provided by the Ministry of Transportation. The choice of place of living should not be restricted by the price of that highway, especially when the restriction comes from the private, for-profit organization. We believe that through the Coastal Ferry Act the Government has failed us in its duty to provide adequate transportation. Therefore, we are asking you to insist on:

- restoration of the coastal ferry system to where it rightfully belongs, under the Ministry of Transportation;
- setting a ferry price structure that is affordable, predictable and steady throughout the year.

We would appreciate your support to mitigate the problem caused by the high ferry rates for our coastal communities. Help these communities survive.

Respectfully submitted,

Quadra Island Artists

QUADRA ISLAND ARTISTS

	NAME	SIGNATURE	PROFESSION	PHONE #
1	JAMES R SMITH	James R Smith	RMT. + PHOTOGRAPHER	285-2572
2	Lisa Bernstein	Lisa Bernstein	Artist	285-2572
3	Leanne Hodges	Leanne Hodges	Artist	285-3152
4	JOHN SCHEVER	John Schevers	ARTIST	285-2498
5	SEHLEEN SCHEVERS	Sehleen Schevers	FORESTRY CONSULTANT	2498
6	Nanci Cook	Nanci Cook	Artist/B+B Host	3390
7	Kathy Manny	Kathy Manny	Painter	3105
8	Tracy Tomlinson	Tracy Tomlinson	Artist	285-3390
9	Mark Zimmer	Mark Zimmer	DESIGNER	3105
10	Lydia Brittany	Lydia Brittany	Copper artist	204-8733
11	PETER BRITANNY	PETER BRITANNY	COPPER ARTIST	202-7450
12	ANNA LEWANDOWSKI	Anna Lewandowski	POTTER	285-3931
13	Martha James	Martha James	Potter	285-3101
14	Gordon James	Gordon James	Potter	285-3101
15	CHRIS ROSE	Chris Rose	SCULPTOR (RES)	285-3245
16	JOHN HANSEN	John Hansen	GLASS WORKER	285-3410
17	Mignon Smient	Mignon Smient	fabric artist	285-3163
18	John Nursall	John Nursall	multimedia artist	285-3752
19	Judy Odell	Judy Odell	music teacher	285-3687
20	Lucy Djwa	Lucy Djwa	art student	604-254-3592
21	Lisa Hartley	Lisa Hartley	Photographer	778-228-9105
22	ISIS JOHNSON	Isis Johnson	sewer	285-3183
23	Leslie Mackenzie	Leslie Mackenzie	Patler	255-2647
24	Berni Parks	Berni Parks	Portrait Artist	250-285-2474
25	M. Thompson	M. Thompson	PAINTER	285-2282

QUADRA ISLAND ARTISTS

	NAME	SIGNATURE	PROFESSION	PHONE #
26	Bruce Mackenzie	[Signature]	Metal Work	280-285-2512
27	Sioux Hartle	[Signature]	glasswork	250 285 2516
28	Melissa Abram	Melissa Abram	Jewelry designer	250-285-3013
29	Judith Sait	[Signature]	decorative painter	285-3896
30	Susan West	SW	retired pulten	285-3632
31	David MacLean	[Signature]	Painter	285 2886
32	Bruce Simmons	[Signature]	Painter	285-3128
33	Lawrie Bowler	[Signature]	Photographer	285-2957
34	Stacy Nielsen	[Signature]	Painter	285-2957
35	TERESA REIMER	[Signature]	VISUAL ARTIST	285-3352
36	TERESA PHILLIPS	[Signature]	fibrecartist	285-3040
37	Dave Blinzinger	[Signature]	musician	285-2718
38	Patricia George	[Signature]	Painter	285-2916
39	JOHN DOUGLAS DOBBIE	[Signature]	Contractor	285-2916
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