

"A community where people live by choice... not by circumstance"



July 31, 2015

Mrs. Pam Eyking,
MLA Victoria-The Lakes
P.O. Box 741
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

Dear Mrs. Eyking,

The St. Ann's Bay Development Association would like to add its voice to those asking for your efforts on our behalf to resolve the issue of inordinate hikes in the fare rates at the Englishtown ferry. The importance of this section of roadway and the impact of the new fares on residents must be taken seriously.

Offering ways to somehow cushion the outrageous fares with various payment options is not acceptable. For example, the \$20 per month access fee still represents a very steep fee for citizens who travel infrequently, 3-4 times a month. For more frequent travelers, it offers a \$10 discount over the yearly pass that is \$250. The only advantage would be that during the months that the ferry is out of service, one would not buy a pass and would save \$20. Notwithstanding that having the ferry out of service for months at a time is yet another situation that needs to be resolved.

Please clarify, on our behalf, to all who are involved in setting these fees that this ferry is part of the public infrastructure, not a special service that is being subsidized; and, as any other part of the roadway, should not be expected to pay for itself. Therefore, a reasonable option would be to issue resident passes that would permit either free access or reasonable fares for full-time residents. These people whose tax dollars are already paying for building and maintaining the infrastructure and whose needs the government is serving. Visitors can pay the higher fares. We have been assured that, from a tourism perspective, the ferry crossing fee do not deter visitors from travelling the Cabot Trail.

Once again, thank you for your efforts. We would appreciate being kept abreast of any progress.

Best regards,

Anne-Claude Pepin
Chairman, St. Ann's Bay Development Association

cc The Honourable Geoff MacLellan, Minister, Department of Transportation and
Infrastructure Renewal