

Gabriola Transportation Society

July 9th, 2025

CEO Nicolas Jimenez
British Columbia Ferry Corporation
1321 Blanshard St Suite 500,
Victoria, BC
V8W 0B6

Re: New policy on towed electric vehicles on BC Ferries

Dear Mr. Jimenez.

The Gabriola Transportation Society has serious concerns regarding your new policy prohibiting towed electric vehicles on BCF vessels. We believe that the policy is inconsistent with the Transport Canada regulation that only mandates damaged or defective vehicle batteries be removed and transported separately from the vehicles themselves on board ferries. This policy is a deterrent to EV ownership at a time when, for very good reasons, Canadians are being encouraged to move quickly away from fossil fuel powered vehicles in favour of electric ones.

While we recognize that damaged or malfunctioning lithium batteries may pose a fire hazard, there are many reasons why an EV may need to be towed onto one of your ferries, and most of them have nothing to do with the lithium battery. Some of those issues might be fixable on some of the island communities that you serve, but others may not, especially on the smaller islands. A vehicle with a transmission problem, faulty brakes, or a defective 12-V lead-acid accessory battery represents no significant fire risk on one of your ferries.

Under your new policy, the only alternative for Gabriolans that need to get a non-drivable EV off the island is a barge. Services are available, but the cost is prohibitive, likely well over \$1000, much more if the vehicle has to be taken to the mainland.

We ask you to please reconsider this policy, so that it only applies to vehicles that have compromised lithium-ion batteries, and that you continue to allow towed EVs on board if a mechanic has certified that the lithium-ion battery is functioning normally . We also ask that you provide the option to transport towed-EVs with compromised lithium batteries on dangerous goods sailings.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Batchelor, Ivan Bulic, Peter Danenhower, Susan Yates, Steven Earle, and Jan Moore
for the Gabriola Transportation Society

copies:

Tamara Kronis, MP, Nanaimo Ladysmith,
Sheila Malcolmson, MLA, Nanaimo-Gabriola,
Hon. Mike Farnworth, Minister of Transportation and Transit,
Hon. Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions
Vanessa Craig, Chair Regional District of Nanaimo,
The Sounder, Gabriola,
The Nanaimo News Bulletin,
Victoria Times Colonist