

November 16, 2009

The Hon. Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Campbell,

RE: Ferries, FOI and Financial Transparency

The recent Comptroller General report makes it clear: it is time to restore credibility and accountability to the governance of BC Ferries. We are writing to you with a suggestion for how you can easily accomplish this.

It is time to subject BC Ferries to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* – as it was before 2003.

The Comptroller General's report revealed a BC Ferries Board operating in secret, unable or unwilling to restrain the spectacular growth in what they and senior executives were paid. We doubt very much that such extravagant payments would have been made if those in charge thought anyone would find out about them.

At Translink, the first thing the new board did, once its meetings were no longer public, was to give itself a massive pay raise.

When public money is spent for a public purpose, it must be accompanied by a legislated requirement for accountability and transparency. We hope that you have been reminded of the wisdom of open government, and will act to restore it to BC Ferries by returning it to the schedule of bodies covered by the FOI act.

Sincerely yours,

Darrell Evans
Executive Director, FIPA

Micheal Vonn
Policy Director, BC Civil Liberties Association

Maureen Bader
BC Director, Canadian Taxpayers Federation