

Replacement Ferry for Wood Islands



August 23, 2023

The Federal Government today announced that they intended to purchase a Ferry for Wood Islands – an interim-replacement for the MV Holiday Island, which was destroyed last season by fire.

While there is a two-week notice period that would allow other qualified interested parties to offer suitable alternatives to the *Norwegian-flagged MV Fanafjord*, it is expected that a purchase will be finalized in 15 days from today. If all goes well, it will be operating at Wood Islands by Spring 2024.

Additionally, it was confirmed that the Federal Government is also continuing with the build-project by Quebec shipbuilding company Chantier Davie Canada. The design/build is expected to be complete and delivered in 2028.

All this is very welcome news to the Rural Municipality of Belfast Council (RMB), who have been lobbying the Provincial and Federal Governments all summer for a reliable/sustainable two-ferry service for Wood Islands. *“Very welcome news indeed”* says Mayor Garth Gillis, *“A reliable/sustainable two-ferry service is an absolute must, if we are hoping to build and keep our tourist traffic; build and promote our local businesses; and keep our residents and indeed ‘Islanders’ with the goods they require on a daily basis.”*

RMB’s lobby, consisted of:

- Letters to Premier King and a long list of CC’s, including our Member of Parliament (MP),
- Numerous Council/Councillor interviews with media about the Ferry issue,
- RMB joining the Eastern PEI Chamber of Commerce to participate in its lobby for a reliable Ferry Service,
- An in-person meeting with RMB’s Member of the Legislative Assembly Darlene Compton, and
- A phone meeting with MP Lawrence MacAulay’s office.

RMB would like to thank everyone involved in this very successful resolution for a much-needed reliable/sustainable Two-Ferry Service! Letters of appreciation to Premier King, Prime Minister Trudeau and MP Lawrence MacAulay to follow.

For information about this release, contact Bob Brooks, CAO – RMB (902) 962-4344.

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