

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

June 18, 2021

Hon. John Horgan, MLA
Premier of British Columbia
Via email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Hon. Rob Fleming, MLA
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Via email: Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca

URGENT: FNLC Support for Judith Sayers' Re-Appointment to BC Ferries Board

Dear Premier Horgan and Minister Rob Fleming,

We are aware that the current term of appointment for certain BC Ferries Board of Directors, including Kekinusuqs, Dr. Judith Sayers, is scheduled to end June 30, 2021.

We are pleased to confirm our unequivocal support of Dr. Judith Sayers and strongly encourage her re-appointment to the BC Ferries Board of Directors, based on her skills and expertise, and the unique contributions she brings as the first and only Indigenous appointment to this Board. We believe the BC Ferries Board must reflect diversity, including representation of those who identify as Indigenous, Black or people of colour.

Dr. Sayers' impact and connection to BC First Nations communities across the province is far-reaching and widely celebrated. Not only is she a distinguished and respected member and former Chief Councillor of her Hupacasath First Nation, but she has also served as a Political Executive member of the First Nations Summit, been a Board member of the New Relationship Trust, and is the current President of the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council and newly appointed Chancellor at Vancouver Island University.

The potential June 30th termination of Ms. Sayers' term as Board member on the BC Ferries Board of Directors is untimely and we request that your office recommend her re-appointment to BC Ferries Authority. Ms. Sayers is the only Indigenous person, and woman of colour on the BC Ferries Board. Additionally, as a resident of Vancouver Island, she has valuable insight into the significance of the BC Ferries service to coastal communities, especially Coastal First Nations.

As the First Nations Leadership Council, we strongly encourage your support for the re-appointment of Dr. Sayers on the basis of her strengths and professional experience, and invaluable perspective as a BC First Nations woman. We also recommend that the BC Ferry Authority consider an alignment of its policies to ensure permanent equitable representation of Indigenous people, women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and people of colour on its BC Ferries and Ferry Authority boards.



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In times where governments, industry, and civil society are making best efforts in reconciliation initiatives with Indigenous peoples, the BC Ferry Authority is in a position to demonstrate strong leadership by maintaining and ensuring continuous Indigenous representation on the BC Ferries Board.

Sincerely,
FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT


Cheryl Casimer


Robert Phillips


Lydia Hwitsum

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS


Grand Chief Stewart Phillip


Chief Don Tom


Kukpi7 Judy Wilson

On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:


Regional Chief Terry Teegee