

# Report

Date April 1, 2026

File:

Subject Noise exemption request from BC Ferries – Crofton Ferry Terminal

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## **PURPOSE**

To seek Council approval for a temporary exemption to Noise Bylaw No. 2857 to allow BC Ferries to undertake necessary operational and/or infrastructure-related work at the Crofton ferry terminal.

## **BACKGROUND**

BC Ferries has requested a noise exemption to facilitate work that must occur outside permitted hours. The Crofton Ferry Terminal is a critical regional infrastructure that supports commuter travel, goods movement, and economic connectivity.

## **DISCUSSION**

North Cowichan's Noise Bylaw No. 2857 prohibits:

*"Erecting, demolishing, or repairing of any building or structure, or the excavation of any land, street, highway, or lane prior to 7:00 a.m. or after 8:00 p.m. on Monday to Saturday, inclusive, or prior to 9:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m. on Sundays in such a manner to disturb the peace, quiet, rest, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of any person or persons in the neighbourhood or vicinity"*

The requested noise bylaw exemption is proposed to apply for the duration of the BC Ferries Crofton Terminal project beginning in May 2026 and extending through May 2027, with conditions as follows:

- Daytime construction activities will remain the primary mode of work and will comply with Noise Bylaw No. 2857 wherever feasible.
- Night shift work will be intermittent and operationally driven, required where daytime work would significantly impact ferry service continuity.
- Initial night work (May – August 2026) is expected to be limited in frequency and short in duration, associated with specific operational tasks.
- Increased night work (September – December 2026) is anticipated, reflecting more intensive construction phases and operational constraints.
- All night work will be time-limited to the minimum duration necessary to safely complete required activities.

BC Ferries will:

- Provide a minimum of one week advance notice to North Cowichan and affected residents prior to any scheduled night work;
- Maintain ongoing communication and coordination with municipal staff throughout the project; and,
- Implement reasonable mitigation measures to minimize noise impacts during overnight activities.

**OPTIONS**

**1. (Recommended Option) Approve Exemption with Conditions**

THAT Council directs staff to implement an exemption to Noise Bylaw No. 2857 for the period from May 4, 2026 to April 30, 2027, to permit BC Ferries to undertake necessary operational and infrastructure related work at the Crofton Ferry Terminal, including intermittent night work occurring between 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., Monday through Sunday when required.

- This option enables critical work to proceed efficiently while maintaining clear controls, communication, and accountability.

**2. Deny the Exemption**

THAT Council denies BC Ferries' request for an exemption to Noise Bylaw No. 2857.

- This option eliminates overnight impacts to residents but may result in project delays, extended overall disruption, and operational impacts to ferry service.

**IMPLICATIONS**

Providing the noise bylaw exemption will allow construction of a new lay-by berth and replacement of the existing trestle and berth structural and non-structural elements, allowing for introduction of two-ship service on Route 6 and will maintain safe and reliable operation.

**RECOMMENDATION**


THAT Council direct staff to implement an exemption to Noise Bylaw No. 2857 for the period from May 4, 2026, to April 30, 2027, to permit BC Ferries to undertake necessary operational and infrastructure related work at the Crofton Ferry Terminal, including intermittent night work occurring between 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., Monday through Sunday when required.

Report prepared by:

*Barry Davidson*

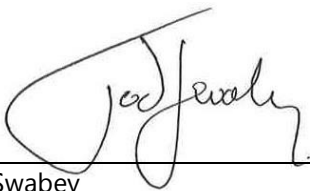
Barry Davidson  
Manager, Bylaw and Business Licensing

Report reviewed by:



John Horn  
Director, Social Planning and Protective Services

**Approved to be forwarded to Council:**



Ted Swabey  
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment:

- (1) Letter from BC Ferries dated April 1, 2026