



To: Members of the Executive Committee

Re: Item 2025.EX21.3, Toronto Ferry Service Operational Review

March 19, 2025

Good Morning,

TICA's Transportation Committee is pleased to be speaking today in support of the Toronto Ferry Service Operational Review and its recommendations.

My name is Tony Farebrother I am here on behalf of the 9-member Committee, of the Toronto Island Community Association who represents the 700 Island residents. Many of us have lived on the Island for 30-50 years and have been closely involved with ferry transportation issues, whether as a community liaison with the ferry docks management or contributing to the design of the new ferries.

As residents, we are acutely aware of the challenges experienced by the growing number of visitors to the Toronto Islands, both locally and from around the world, all year round.

We were therefore very thankful for having an opportunity to engage with Staff and the Consultant on the Operational Review of the management of the ferry service. It has been our opinion for many years that this was long overdue. This presented us with an opportunity to hopefully affect some very positive and necessary changes. The Committee submitted a 7-page document outlining a litany of concerns and suggested solutions. This document then became the basis for a meeting with the Staff involved, including the consultant from Greenline and Tom Davidson from Deputy Mayor Malik's office.

we came away from the meeting feeling optimistic that the Consultant and Staff were on the right track and that this Operational Review and Recommendations has, so to speak, hit the nail on the head. Giving the ferry service it's due place of importance in Toronto, with a mandate and a clear management structure with the appropriate skills to fulfill the 7 excellent recommendations which addresses many of our concerns. The next few years will be challenging, and the next critical piece will be to hire the right people.

We did feel however, that one key element was missing in the Review which is the dire need to rebuild the city ferry docks. Having greater capacity on the new ferries will not mean less congestion in the outdated, too small, terminal as it is today. To truly meet the challenges, this service will require prioritizing funding options to make this happen.

The new management team will also need to work closely together with other user groups in the Harbour to develop a better coordinated marine strategy plan that would involve Waterfront Toronto, Ports Toronto, the Harbour Police (who desperately need more staff), the water taxi companies and tour boat businesses, along with sailors, kayakers and paddleboarders. Right now, there is little coordination and planning, increasing safety risk.

That being said, this is really a tremendous start, and we are thankful for the thorough review. We look forward to continuing to contribute and consult in any way we can be helpful. Thank you for your time, and for the Executive Committee's support of this Review.