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No shelter from the storm—ferry protest

Hundreds of ferry users mounted a protest on the BC Legislature lawn, March 2. At the protest North Island MLA Claire Trevena demanded that Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon return the passenger shelter on the Quadra ferry.

'The Minister of Transportation wants to turn his back on the thousands of British Columbians who depend on the ferries,' said Trevena. 'But ultimately it is his responsibility to ensure the safety of passengers is not being compromised.'

'The Quadra Island ferry went in for regular maintenance last autumn, and returned without the passenger shelter,' Trevena explained. 'Now the disabled, seniors, and mothers with strollers are forced to huddle on the car deck, braving howling gales and winter storms.'

Trevena raised the issue during Question Period, following a meeting with ferry users in front of the Legislature. 'Will the

Minister commit to the people of Quadra Island that the passenger shelter will be replaced, without the cost being downloaded on them in yet another fare hike?'

Trevena pointed out that fares for the Quadra Island ferry have increased 38% in the last three years—7 % in the last five months alone.

'We are continually asked to pay more, and yet the BC Ferry Corporation won't even replace a necessary shelter on the car deck,' said Trevena. 'Minister Falcon is ultimately responsible and must act on that responsibility immediately.'

'Hundreds of my constituents took the time to travel to Victoria to express their concerns and frustrations to the Minister of Transportation,' Trevena commented. 'Yet Minister Falcon refused to make time for them. It's shameful.' ✍

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