

## Request for Agenda Item

**Date of Committee of the Whole Council Meeting:** November 21, 2023

(Requests must be submitted to the Municipal Clerk's Office by end of day on the Wednesday before the meeting)

**Subject:** Digby Ferry Redeployment

**Motion to be Considered:** Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Transport, and copied to Rick Perkins and Chris d'Entremont, encouraging other options to be explored for a temporary replacement for the PEI-Magdalene ferry.

**Reason:**

Last Friday, it was confirmed that Transport Canada is considering using MV Fundy Rose to service the route between Souris, P.E.I., and Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Que., when MV Madeleine II goes into mandatory drydocking next spring.

It is possible that the redeployment could start in May and last 4-8 weeks, but it could be extended further.

A spring suspension would be highly disruptive and economically costly to the trucking and seafood industries. Operators will have to choose between devaluing their fresh product by increasing shipping times or pay for additional drivers. The degradation of live/fresh product and the increase of greenhouse gas emissions by forcing all the vehicles to drive around also appears to have not been on the radar of some folks behind this consideration.

**Name:** Chris Frotten

**Date:** November 15, 2023