

**Ministry of Transportation****Ministère des Transports**

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October 25, 2024

Deputy Mayor Bill Saunders  
Township of Frontenac Islands  
BSaunders@frontenacislands.ca

Dear Deputy Mayor Saunders,

Thank you for reaching out to request an update on the Vendor of Record (VOR) for the Howe Island ferry service. We're pleased to provide you with the following information on the ministry's progress, which we've also shared with the County of Frontenac.

As you know, we've been working to procure a naval architect through a VOR arrangement to help provide expert marine engineering advice on long-term options to improve the ferry service. The VOR work is complete, and three vendors have been prequalified to bid on the project. We are now moving onto the next stage of issuing a Request for Services to obtain proposals from the vendors.

After this stage, a successful candidate will be chosen, and under the Ontario government's procurement process, their name will be public information. The ministry is targeting for work on the study to begin in December.

At the same time, we've been making progress on short-term solutions to improve service. To help minimize future service disruptions caused by mechanical issues with the winch, a new winch for the ferry is currently being designed and built. We expect it to be ready to install late this fall or early winter.

We are committed to continuing a regular dialogue with the township on the progress we're making to ensure reliable ferry service for Howe Islanders. We hope you find this update helpful.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Franca Sacchetti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Franca Sacchetti  
Director, East Operations

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colin Simons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Colin Simons  
Director, Transportation User Services Branch

c: Vanessa Latimer, Chief Administrative Officer, Township of Frontenac Islands