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MP Newsletter: Delivering for the Sunshine Coast

Sunshine Coast Water Security Project

Year after year, Sunshine Coast residents face severe water restrictions due to recurring droughts—a growing challenge exacerbated by climate change. In 2022, the situation reached a breaking point with a local emergency declared, businesses and public facilities shut down, and the region narrowly avoiding a boil water advisory. This crisis has caused significant anxiety for residents, farmers, and businesses.

The Need for Action

Water infrastructure proposals, while initiated by local governments and approved by the province, have been hampered by decades of underfunding. Given the region's growth and the worsening climate, urgent action is necessary.



Photo: With everyone who helped make this important project a reality

A Solution for the Long-Term

In response to this, the shíshálh Nation, the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD), and neighbouring municipalities have worked together to propose a transformative solution. I am proud to have announced on January 16th that the federal government is investing \$117 million in the Sunshine Coast Water Security Project. This is the largest infrastructure investment in Sunshine Coast history and will provide reliable water security for residents for the next 75 years.

Project Details



Photo: Chapman Lake, Credit: SCRD

- **Two New Reservoirs:** Water will be secured during the wetter months in two large-scale reservoirs to ensure a steady supply through the dry summer months. One of these reservoirs will be located at a previously disturbed gravel mine site, minimizing environmental impact.
- **Reconciliation and Collaboration:** This project is a model of reconciliation, with the shíshálh Nation and local governments working together to solve one of the region's most pressing issues.
- **Upgrades to the Water Treatment Plant:** The existing water treatment plant will be upgraded to manage the additional water storage, benefitting around three-quarters of the Sunshine Coast population.

Project Phases

Phase 1: Construction of the Lower Crown reservoir at Heidelberg Materials Sechelt mine, with water drawn from Chapman Creek.

Phase 2: A new 1.5 million cubic metre reservoir, with possible site locations currently under assessment

Public Consultation & Engagement

The Sunshine Coast community will have multiple opportunities to learn more and provide input on this critical project. Details of this public engagement and consultation process are forthcoming.

For more information, please contact:

- **Sunshine Coast Regional District** — (604) 885-6800 or info@scrd.ca
- **shíshálh Nation** — (604) 885-2273
- **My Constituency Office** — patrick.weiler@parl.gc.ca or (604) 913-2660

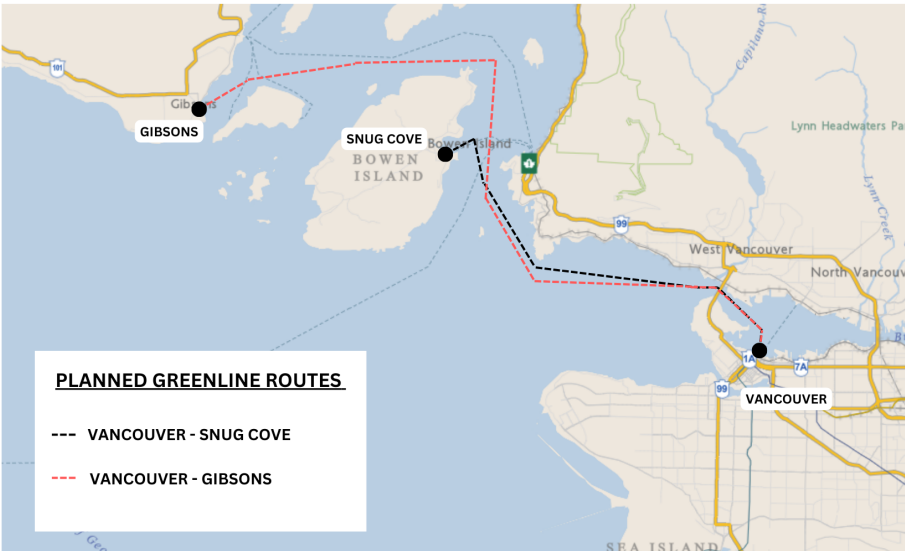
Connecting the Sunshine Coast & the Mainland with Regular Passenger Ferry Service

For Sunshine Coast residents, ferries are vital for commuting, accessing medical appointments, visiting family, and enjoying Vancouver. Unfortunately, BC Ferries has often failed to meet those needs with unreliable service and frequent breakdowns.

That is why I worked to secure funding for terminal upgrades and new vessels for BC Ferries. However, it is clear that we need additional solutions for the Coast.

Over the last few years, I have worked in partnership with local governments and Greenline Ferries, a private operator, seeking to create a new foot passenger service from Gibsons Harbour to Coal Harbour in Vancouver. Greenline plans four daily round trips using new electric ferries, capable of carrying up to 150 passengers. This service is made possible by federal investment tax credits for clean technology, which supports BC-based innovation.

Photo (right): Announcing with Vancouver City Council and Vancouver Park Board a motion for Harbour Green to be made the dock for Greenline Ferries in downtown



Traveling between Gibsons and Vancouver in just 70 minutes, this service will offer an eco-friendly alternative—no cars, no transit, no emissions, and minimal noise pollution for marine life. It also boosts tourism opportunities on both sides of the water.

Significant progress has been made on this project with local governments and Greenline Ferries is on track to launch in 2027.