

**Ministry of  
Transportation**

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**Ministère des Transports**

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January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Vanessa Latimer  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Township of Frontenac Islands  
VLatimer@frontenacislands.ca

Dear Vanessa Latimer,

I am writing to provide an update on the recent electrical issue affecting the *Wolfe Islander IV* and the steps the Ministry of Transportation has taken to maintain ferry service.

On Dec. 22, 2025, the *Wolfe Islander IV* experienced an intermittent electrical power outage. As the safety of passengers and crew is the ministry's highest priority, the *Wolfe Islander IV* has been temporarily removed from service to identify and resolve the root cause of the electrical issue.

Recognizing the ferry's essential role for the community, ministry staff members worked around the clock to take action, including:

- Immediately coordinating with emergency services to ensure ongoing emergency response for Wolfe Island.
- Initiating a comprehensive investigation, working closely with the shipbuilder's electrical power system specialists and Transport Canada to diagnose the complex electrical issue.
- Deploying the *Quinte Loyalist* on Dec. 23, 2025, to restore walk-on passenger service.
- Deploying the *Amherst Islander II* on Dec. 24, 2025, to restore full vehicle and passenger service.
- Deploying the *Wolfe Islander III* on Jan. 7, 2026, to restore full service between Wolfe Island and Kingston.
- Maintaining public safety by completing necessary fit testing and operational checks to ensure safe and reliable docking operations.

To ensure passengers were kept informed, the ministry provided timely public updates via Ontario 511, the Wolfe Island ferry email distribution list, X/Twitter (@WolfelIslander3) and the variable message signs at the docks. In addition, terminal buildings at the Kingston and Marysville docks were kept open to offer electric power, drinking water and washroom facilities to the public.

Engineers will continue to thoroughly inspect the *Wolfe Islander IV* to identify and resolve the root cause of the issue before the vessel returns to service. We continue to work closely with the ship's manufacturer, Damen Shipbuilding. Further, ministry staff members have worked diligently to ensure the timely return of the *Wolfe Islander III* from dry dock in Hamilton. As of Jan. 7, 2026, the *Wolfe Islander III* began providing full service every 60 minutes.

We recognize the impact ferry service interruptions have on the community. The ministry will continue to keep the community informed of changes to schedules, docking locations and vessel availability and we apologize to all passengers impacted by the service disruption.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Franca Sacchetti".

Franca Sacchetti  
Regional Director, East Operations

- c. Judy Greenwood-Speers, Mayor, Township of Frontenac Islands  
Bill Saunders, Deputy Mayor, Township of Frontenac Islands  
Colin Simons, Director, Transportation User Services Branch

