

# *Reprint* **Island Tides**

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Reprint from Volume 16 Number 18

October 7, 2004

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## **BC Ferry workers to affiliate with International Transport Workers' Federation**

The membership of the BC Ferry and Marine Workers' Union have voted 89% in favour of affiliation with the 5,000,000 member International Transport Workers' Federation. The ITF, which includes 600 unions in 140 countries around the world, was established to defend and further the economic and social interests of transport workers. The Federation maintains a specialist education department dedicated to the development of strong transport unions, and has a seat on the International Maritime Organization.

'This is an historic day for ferry workers,' said Jackie Miller, president of the Union. 'Today we have taken a giant step away from our public sector roots and into the reality of private sector marine transportation workers. Ever since BC Ferries

commenced operations as a private company we have needed to build new liaisons and encourage new allies.'

Miller says the range of ITF's activities can be summed up as information, representation and practical solidarity. She expects to be attending international marine meetings as well as the Federation's International Congress representing ferry workers and their interests.

Other Canadian affiliates of the International Transport Workers' Federation include the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, the Canadian Autoworkers, the Canadian Merchant Service Guild, Seafarer's International, and CUPE's airline workers. ✉

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*'This article was published (October 7, 2004) in 'Island Tides', an independent, regional newspaper distributing across the Southern Strait of Georgia from Tsawwassen to Victoria to Nanaimo.'*

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