



Opportunity to Comment on BC Ferries' Proposed Acquisition of Five New Vessels for Minor Routes

The Office of the British Columbia Ferries Commissioner ("commissioner"), the independent regulator of BC Ferries, is seeking public comment on BC Ferries' application under Section 55 of the *Coastal Ferry Act* seeking the commissioner's approval of the major capital expenditure to acquire four Island Class vessels, one Salish Class vessel and incremental terminal improvements.

BC Ferries proposes to deploy the first two of the four Island class vessels on the route connecting Campbell River and Quadra Island ("Route 23") as a direct replacement for the Powell River Queen. The other two Island class vessels would be deployed on the route connecting Nanaimo Harbour and Gabriola Island ("Route 19") enabling the redeployment of the Quinsam to the route connecting Crofton with Vesuvius on Salt Spring Island ("Route 6"), the Quinitsa to refit relief and the retirement of the Bowen Queen.

The Salish class vessel, the fourth of this class, would replace the Mayne Queen and would be deployed, with the Queen of Cumberland, on the route connecting Swartz Bay with the Southern Gulf Islands ("Route 5/5A").

Under Section 55 of the *Coastal Ferry Act* the commissioner may approve a major capital expenditure if the proposed major capital expenditure is:

- a) reasonable,
- b) prudent, and
- c) consistent with
 - (i) the current Coastal Ferry Services Contract, and
 - (ii) any long term capital plan established by the ferry operator.

BC Ferries' application is available on the commissioner's website at www.bcferrycommission.ca. The commissioner's Section 55 Application Guidelines is also available at www.bcferrycommission.ca.

Comments or submissions can be sent by email to info@bcferrycommission.ca or by mail to:

Office of the BC Ferries Commissioner
PO Box 9279 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9J7

Deadline for public comments is November 30, 2018. Comments submitted to the commissioner may be published on its website.