



Opportunity to Comment on BC Ferries' Proposed New Minor Route Vessels

The Office of the British Columbia Ferries Commissioner ("commissioner"), the independent regulator of BC Ferry Services Inc., is seeking public comment on BC Ferries' proposal to replace vessels on Route 18 (Powell River-Texada Island) and Route 25 (Port McNeill - Alert Bay - Sointula). BC Ferries has submitted an application under Section 55 of the *Coastal Ferry Act* seeking the commissioner's approval of the major capital expenditure to acquire two new minor class vessels.

In its application BC Ferries proposes to deploy the first new vessel on Route 18 replacing the *North Island Princess* which will be retired and the other new vessel will be deployed on Route 25 replacing the *Quadra Queen II* which will be redeployed as refit relief in place of the *Quinetsa*. In turn, the *Quinetsa* will be redeployed to Route 6 (Salt Spring Island (Vesuvius Bay) - Crofton) enabling the retirement of the *Howe Sound Queen*.

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/reports-press/whats-new/.

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 January 31, 2017. Comments submitted to the commissioner may be published on the commissioner's website.