

For Immediate Release
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BC FERRIES' NORTHERN EXPEDITION MAKES INAUGURAL SAILING TODAY

VICTORIA – BC Ferries' brand new vessel, the Northern Expedition, is making its inaugural sailing today, departing Port Hardy early this morning on the Inside Passage route bound for Prince Rupert. Several hundred customers and dignitaries were on board to mark this special occasion where the Northern Expedition carried patrons for the very first time.

From May 18 through September 30, the Northern Expedition makes the 15-hour, 274 nautical mile journey daily between Port Hardy and Prince Rupert. The ship sails northbound from Port Hardy every other day at 7:30 am and arrives in Prince Rupert at 10:30 pm. The vessel then sails southbound the following day.

"This is a proud day for BC Ferries as we enter a new era for our north coast service," said Mike Corrigan, BC Ferries' EVP and Chief Operating Officer. "A key element of our marketing strategy is to promote this very unique B.C. coastal wilderness experience."

The 150-metre Northern Expedition boasts 55 modern staterooms, and accommodates 600 passengers and 130 vehicles. Spacious passenger areas such as the Canoe Cafe, Vista Restaurant and the Raven and Aurora Lounges offer customers plenty of comfort as they take in the breathtaking north coast scenery during their voyage.

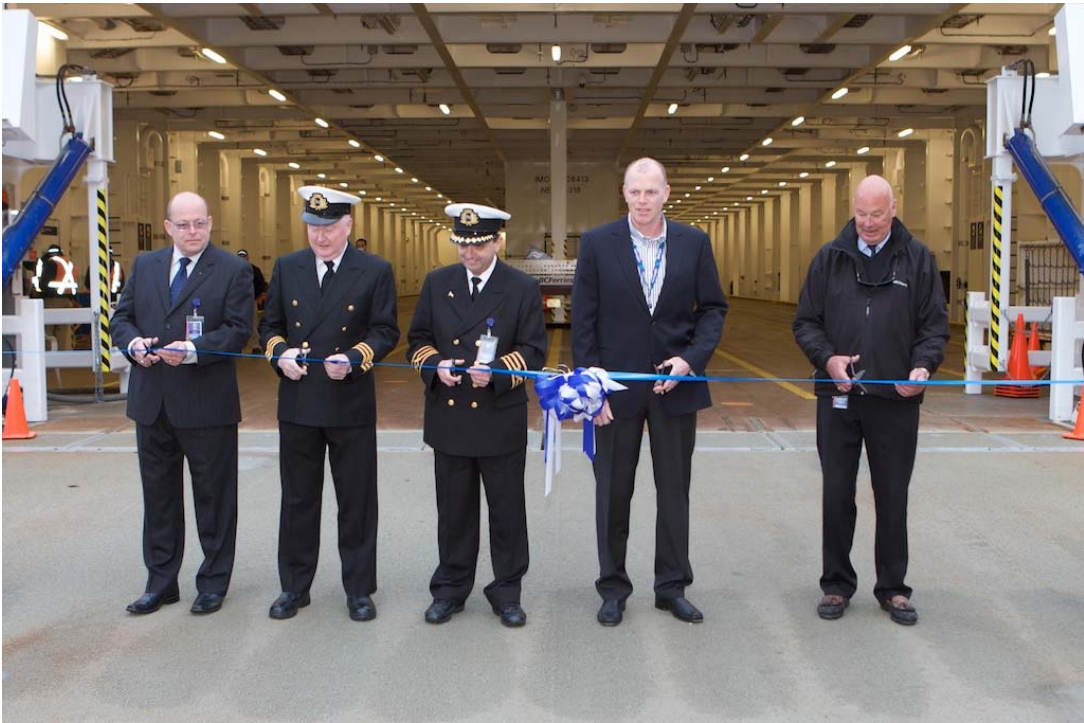
Make this summer your time to explore northern British Columbia. Information about exciting travel packages and reservations on BC Ferries' northern routes are available at 1-877-982-1453 or online at www.bcferrries.com.

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(Photos Attached)

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Taking part in official ribbon-cutting ceremony aboard the Northern Expedition are, from left to right, Captain Steve Poole, Marine Superintendent; Lorne Campbell, Senior Chief Steward; Captain Orval Bouchard, Senior Master; Mike Corrigan, EVP and COO; and Captain Trafford Taylor, EVP New Construction



Mark Stefanson, VP Public Affairs; Bill Connor, Senior Chief Engineer; Sharon Barton, Terminal Operations Supervisor; Captain Steve Poole, Marine Superintendent; Lorne Campbell, Senior Chief Steward; Captain Orval Bouchard, Senior Master; Mike Corrigan, EVP and COO; and Captain Trafford Taylor, EVP New Construction



First passenger vehicle boards inaugural sailing of the Northern Expedition



The Northern Expedition at Bear Cove Terminal, Port Hardy