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MV QUINSAM RETURNS TO SERVICE AFTER \$16 MILLION UPGRADE Terminals upgraded at both Nanaimo Harbour and Descanso Bay

VICTORIA – The completely refurbished Quinsam returns to service tomorrow on BC Ferries' Gabriola Island route following an extensive asset betterment project. BC Ferries spent over \$16 million on the project to prepare the 28-year old ship for another 17 years of service.

“The Quinsam project, which was conducted in two, six-month phases, basically saw a complete rebuild of the ship with upgrades to engineering components, lifesaving equipment and passenger amenities,” said Mark Collins, BC Ferries' Vice President of Engineering and Terminal Construction. “The result is a quieter, safer, cleaner, more fuel efficient vessel.”

The major project work included the following:

- Brand new safety and evacuation systems
- Four new propulsion systems
- New electrical generators and switchboards
- New wheel house with all new controls and electronics
- Steel replacement
- Four new passenger lounges
- New washrooms
- New security systems with many CCTV cameras with recorders
- Upgrades to the sewage treatment plant

The work undertaken in the first phase of the Quinsam project, which occurred last year, included: sandblasting and re-coating the car deck; installation of new keel coolers and new sea chest piping; the replacement of a significant amount of the bilge piping; and the installation of a larger capacity tank for the sewage system.

In order to coincide with the return of the Quinsam, improvements to Nanaimo Harbour include fencing repairs and repainting the vehicle lane markings. “A significant change for customers, given the commuter nature of the route, is safe walking areas for foot passengers which reduce conflicts with vehicular traffic,” said Collins. “This includes a new electrically controlled barrier in front of the ticket booth to allow foot passengers to purchase tickets while the vehicles are held back at a safe distance.” Later this summer, BC Ferries will undertake another major project at Nanaimo Harbour as the existing washrooms will be demolished and a new, modern facility will be constructed.

On the Gabriola Island side at Descanso Bay, BC Ferries has installed a completely new electrical service, including increased shore power to the vessel. This will allow the ship to shut down its' generators in dock at night, improving air quality. The terminal buildings and berth ramps have also been repainted and new fencing has been installed.

BC Ferries is pleased to reintroduce the Quinsam into service along with the terminal improvements. This ship is the sixth minor vessel to undergo significant improvements over the last few years.

“The Quinsam’s asset betterment project is just one example of our comprehensive upgrade program for our minor vessels and terminals,” said Collins. “BC Ferries has already made upgrades to minor vessels Kuper, Quinitsa, Kwuna, Kahloke, Klitsa and North Island Princess. We’ve recently upgraded terminal facilities at Skidegate, Bella Bella, Buckley Bay, Quathiaski Cove, Fulford Harbour, Alert Bay, Village Bay and Kuper Island.”

This year, BC Ferries will undertake a major modernization of the vessel Quadra Queen II. In the near future, BC Ferries will launch terminal improvements at Denman Island, Hornby Island, Little River and Powell River.

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