

For Immediate Release
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KEEL OF BC FERRIES' NEW CABLE FERRY OFFICIALLY LAID TODAY

VICTORIA – BC Ferries announced that the keel-laying of the new cable ferry took place at a special ceremony today at Seaspan's Vancouver Shipyards in North Vancouver.

“This event marks a major milestone in the project as we lay the foundation for the cable ferry,” said Mark Wilson, BC Ferries' Vice President of Engineering. “The cable ferry is the first ship in this next phase of our vessel replacement program in which we strive to deliver the same levels of safe and reliable service our customers expect with a continued focus on fare affordability through capital and operating cost savings.”

“We are proud to partner with BC Ferries to build its first-ever cable ferry, and today's keel-laying ceremony is an exciting and important step in the vessel's construction at Seaspan's new state-of-the-art shipyard in North Vancouver,” said Brian Carter, President, Seaspan Shipyards.”

Once complete, the cable ferry will measure 78.5 metres long and will accommodate 50 vehicles and 150 passengers and crew. After undergoing extensive crew training and familiarization, the cable ferry system is expected to be in operation on the Buckley Bay – Denman Island route in the summer of 2015.

In keeping with maritime tradition, today's ceremony was marked by the placing of a silver bullion coin into the vessel to mark the official laying of the vessel's keel. This special coin will permanently remain in place in the vessel for its service life.

Under contract to the Province of British Columbia, BC Ferries is the service provider responsible for the delivery of safe, efficient and dependable ferry service along coastal British Columbia.

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Photos attached

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Tony Matergio, Vancouver Shipyard Vice President and General Manager, presents Mark Wilson, BC Ferries Vice President of Engineering, with a special coin to insert into the keel.



Left to right: Jonathan Whitworth, CEO of Seaspan; Captain Jamie Marshall, BC Ferries Vice President of Fleet Operations; Tony Matergio, Vancouver Shipyard Vice President and General Manager; Brian Carter, Seaspan Shipyards President; and Surjit Parmer, Vancouver Shipyards Senior Welder Chargehand, watch as Mark Wilson, BC Ferries Vice President of Engineering prepares to weld a special coin into the keel.