

An Update from BC Ferries



I would like to share an update on the progress of the *Northern Sea Wolf*, BC Ferries' newest vessel that will service the direct route between Port Hardy and Bella Coola starting this summer.

We are working hard to complete the vessel upgrades at Esquimalt Drydock in Victoria and bring the *Northern Sea Wolf* up to BC Ferries' high standards for safety and a great customer experience, as well as meet all regulatory requirements.

We had expected to have the vessel in service by the beginning of the summer season, but due to the ship being delivered later than planned, and the work required on the vessel being more extensive, the ship will enter service a few weeks later, on July 20. In recognition of this delay, we will extend the direct route season by two weeks, until October 11.

For customers wishing to travel between Port Hardy and

Bella Coola prior to July 20, BC Ferries' will continue to provide the option to travel on the *Northern Expedition* and *Nimpkish* vessels. For full schedule details, please visit bcferries.com. Any customers currently booked on direct route sailings between June 19 - July 19 will be contacted by our Customer Service Centre shortly to adjust their travel arrangements. Please know confirmed bookings will not be canceled, only moved to an alternate available sailing of your choice.

We appreciate our customers' patience and the understanding of the communities affected by the delay in *Northern Sea Wolf* entering into service.

Terminal upgrades to prepare for the *Northern Sea Wolf* are also underway at Bella Coola, Ocean Falls, Shearwater and Bella Bella. We will complete these upgrades this month.

The *Northern Sea Wolf* has a capacity of 35 vehicles, and 150 passengers and crew, and will be a welcome addition

to the BC Ferries fleet. As part of the vessel upgrade, the *Northern Sea Wolf* will have a completely renovated passenger area, a full galley, a dedicated dining area and prime outdoor viewing areas on the upper outer decks to showcase this spectacular region of our province.

Soon we will announce the selection of two local First Nations artists, whose designs will adorn the vessel and capture the essence of the sea wolf. The *Northern Sea Wolf's* name was inspired by a First Nations legend in which the sea wolf is a manifestation of the orca, symbolizing family and loyalty, as well as protecting those travelling their waters.

Before the vessel goes into service, we plan to host a special celebration on board the ship in each community it will serve at the time we do the required dock fits in each terminal. We will provide more details on these celebrations as we get closer to the in service date.

We want to offer our customers a superb and safe experience on board the *Northern Sea Wolf* and look forward to bringing the ship into service this summer. This beautiful vessel will support tourism on the north island and central coast for years to come and we are excited to welcome you on board.

Sincerely,

Mark Wilson

Vice President, Strategy and
Community Engagement

