

For Immediate Release  
17-104

December 19, 2017

**BC FERRIES AND FPCC COLLABORATE WITH FIRST NATIONS TO CONNECT  
TRAVELLERS WITH REGION'S CULTURE**  
**Artist selection process for Northern Sea Wolf now open**

VICTORIA – BC Ferries is partnering with the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) to facilitate the commission of an original design from a First Nations artist and original text from a First Nations writer to adorn the interior of Northern Sea Wolf. Beginning in summer 2018, Northern Sea Wolf will provide direct summer service between Port Hardy and Bella Coola, with a connector service once a week between Bella Coola, Bella Bella, Shearwater and Ocean Falls. Northern Sea Wolf will have a significant role in driving tourism, as well as providing ferry services for local residents.

The artist and writer selected will be associated with one of the communities the vessel will service, with the design reflecting the culture, character and life of the waters Northern Sea Wolf will traverse.

“We are honoured to be working with BC Ferries again and facilitating commissions with First Nations artists and writers. Showcasing the extraordinary First Nations talent from this area of the province is an important acknowledgment of a unique Indigenous perspective, which is informed by the land and waters of this place,” said Tracey Herbert, CEO at the First Peoples’ Cultural Council. “We look forward to seeing this beautiful new artwork and hearing about the legend of the Sea Wolf and the Orca.”

A call to Indigenous artists and writers from the Nuxalk Nation at Bella Coola, The Gwa’sala Nakwaxda’xw Band and Kwakiutl First Nation at Port Hardy, and the Heiltsuk Nation is now open to expressions of interest and portfolios. The First Peoples’ Cultural Council will facilitate the process with an adjudication committee comprised of artists and BC Ferries representatives. From the first round of submissions, the committee will select up to four artists and four writers to be shortlisted and commissioned to propose specific design concepts. From these proposals, one artist’s design and one writer’s text will be selected for final refinement, with the artwork adhering to BC Ferries’ specifications for fabrication and application.

“Partnering again with the First Peoples’ Cultural Council and collaborating with First Nations is important to our culture at BC Ferries,” says Mark Collins, BC Ferries’ President and CEO. “We are continuously learning about the rich First Nations culture of B.C. and this project teaches us even more.”

In June 2017, BC Ferries hosted an engagement process with representatives from central-coast First Nations, tourism and community stakeholders to select a name for the vessel that will service the new route. The working group selected Northern Sea Wolf, with the name inspired by First Nations' legends in which the Sea Wolf is a manifestation of the Orca. The Sea Wolf symbolizes family and loyalty and the protection of those travelling their waters.

The expression of interest is now open and the deadline is January 22, 2018. Shortlisted artists will be contacted and invited to submit conceptual designs by February 5, 2018, with the final selection of artists taking place in March 2018. For full details of the call for artists, including submission guidelines, please visit the First Peoples' Cultural Council website at [www.fpcc.ca](http://www.fpcc.ca).

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Photo attached.

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Northern Sea Wolf arrived at Ogden Point in Victoria, B.C. last week. Photo courtesy of Ian Robertson, Greater Victoria Harbour Authority.