

For Immediate Release
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BC FERRIES ANNOUNCES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSIONS FOR MINOR 44 CLASS VESSEL PROJECT

VICTORIA – From August 14 to 16, BC Ferries representatives will be hosting public participation sessions in three separate communities to provide an update to, and seek feedback on, the Minor 44 Class vessel project, which will see two new, minor class vessels enter the fleet by 2020.

Details on these engagement sessions are as follows:

- Monday, August 14: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Texada Seniors Centre, Texada Island
- Tuesday, August 15: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Lawrence Amber Memorial Rec Centre in Alert Bay
- Wednesday, August 16: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Upper Crust Bakery in Sointula

Community members are invited to attend these sessions to learn more about the project, provide opinions on current vessel design features, and share ideas on amenities they feel may enhance customer service. BC Ferries will present a preliminary vessel design for discussion.

“Now that we’re in contract with a shipyard to build these two vessels, we really want to hear from our customers prior to the final design being set,” said Mark Wilson, BC Ferries’ Vice President of Engineering. “The more we can understand what amenities are valuable for customers, the better ability we have to work with the shipyard and build as many of these features into the final design as are feasible.”

The first of the new vessels will be deployed on the Powell River – Texada Island route, replacing the 59-year old North Island Princess, which will be retired from the BC Ferries fleet. The second vessel will replace the Quadra Queen II on the Port McNeill – Alert Bay – Sointula route. The Quadra Queen II will become a relief vessel, allowing for fleet redeployments and the retirement of the 53-year old Howe Sound Queen.

The webpage dedicated to the Minor 44 Class project has been recently updated to include much of the same information that will be shared at these community engagement sessions, and can be found at: bcferries.com/about/projects. As well, anyone who wishes to share comments, but is unable to attend a session, is invited to email the project team at vesselreplacement@bcferries.com.

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Artist renderings attached

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Artist rendering for the preliminary design of the passenger lounge



Artist rendering of the view on the vehicle deck