

For Immediate Release
17-033

May 9, 2017

**BC FERRIES' SALISH ORCA OFFICIALLY BEGINS SERVICE ON MAY 16
Queen of Burnaby to retire after final sailing on May 15**

VICTORIA – BC Ferries' newest vessel, Salish Orca, will officially commence service on Tuesday, May 16, at 6:20 a.m. on the Comox – Powell River route.

Salish Orca is the first of three new Salish Class vessels that are dual-fuel and capable of operating on either natural gas or ultra-low sulphur marine diesel. BC Ferries' use of natural gas for these vessels will result in the reduction of an estimated 9,000 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, the same as taking approximately 1,900 passenger vehicles off the road annual.

“We are very excited to introduce this beautiful new ship, Salish Orca, into service and see the dual-fuel technology at work,” said Mark Collins, BC Ferries' President and CEO. “BC Ferries recognizes the service the Queen of Burnaby has provided millions of customers over her five decades. We look forward to the safe and reliable service Salish Orca will provide customers for years to come, as well as her additional environmental and cost-saving benefits.”

Salish Orca and her sister ships Salish Eagle and Salish Raven were named to honour the Coast Salish people as the original mariners of the Salish Sea. Each vessel features the artwork of a different First Nations artist.

The vessel, which accommodates approximately 145 vehicles and up to 600 passengers and crew, is equipped with two marine evacuation systems with life rafts, smoke and natural gas detection alarms and state-of-the-art fire suppression systems. The vessel measures 107 metres in length overall and has a service speed of 15.5 knots.

Passenger amenities on board Salish Orca include: a Coastal Café; Passages Gift Shop; comfortable lounge seating with panoramic views; children's play area; spacious outdoor seating on an open sundeck; pet area and elevators.

BC Ferries looks forward to welcoming its customers on board Salish Orca.

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.

- 30 -

Media Contact:
BC Ferries, Media Relations
Victoria: (250) 978-1267

Customer Contact:
Victoria: (250) 386-3431
Toll-free: 1-888-BCFERRY (1-888-223-3779)