

Media Advisory

For Immediate Release 19-014

March 28, 2019

SCHEDULE INCREASES ON EIGHT ROUTES GO INTO EFFECT ON APRIL 1

VICTORIA – BC Ferries is adding service on a variety of routes throughout the network under contract with the Province to increase service levels.

On February 22, 2019, the Province announced it will contract BC Ferries to increase service on 10 ferry routes, adding 2,700 round trip sailings for people living in coastal communities.

Additional service on the following routes will start on April 1:

- Crofton Vesuvius
- Earls Cove Saltery Bay
- Horseshoe Bay Bowen Island
- Port Hardy Mid-Coast Prince Rupert
- Haida Gwaii Prince Rupert
- Powell River Texada Island
- Campbell River Quadra Island
- Quadra Island Cortes Island
- Nanaimo Harbour Gabriola Island (additional service starting early April following community survey)

The Province also contracted service increases on the Alliford Bay –Skidegate route and for summer service on the Port Hardy – Prince Rupert route.

For the Alliford Bay – Skidegate route, the increase to the schedule requires another full crew each day. This route will change from a 12-hour per day to a 16-hour per day operation, requiring additional staff to provide the service. The company has begun the process to recruit and relocate staff, and will keep the local ferry advisory committee advised when the additional service will begin.

On the Inside Passage route between Port Hardy – Prince Rupert, vessel refit and recruitment plans prevent the addition of more service at the start of this summer. BC Ferries is investigating the feasibility of extending the summer schedule into the fall of this year. Even more service has been added to the route for next year.

The schedule on the Crofton – Vesuvius route will be increased beginning April 1, 2019 with early Friday and Saturday sailings added. Further increases will go into effect on May 1, 2019, as operators that ship dangerous goods adjust their delivery schedules.

For full schedule details on all routes, visit <u>bcferries</u>.com.

- 30 -

Media Contact: Customer Contact:

BC Ferries, Communications Victoria: (250) 386-3431

Victoria: (250) 978-1267 Toll-free: 1-888-BCFERRY (1-888-223-3779)