For Immediate Release
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BC FERRIES AND POINT HOPE MARITIME SIGN FIVE-YEAR SERVICE AGREEMENT CONTRACT

VICTORIA – BC Ferries and Point Hope Maritime Ltd. announced today they have entered into a five-year supply agreement for scheduled dry-docking, maintenance, repair or refit requirements, as well as emergency dry-docking services, for eight of BC Ferries' minor vessels.

This agreement supports BC Ferries' goal to continue its practice of investing in B.C.-based marine services. Over the past 10 years, BC Ferries spent approximately $1 billion at local shipyards on dry-dockings and refits, repairs, mid-life upgrades and life-extension projects. BC Ferries also provides work for other local shipyards including: Seaspan's Vancouver Shipyards, Vancouver Dry Dock, Esquimalt Drydock Company, the Esquimalt Graving Dock, and Allied Shipbuilders.

"We are pleased to solidify an arrangement as our docking partner for our minor vessels with Point Hope Maritime, which has strong capabilities in safety, engineering, planning, project management procurement and quality control," said Mark Wilson, BC Ferries' Vice President of Engineering. "Access to a local, secure supply of services is crucial for the reliability of our fleet, and therefore essential to the communities we serve."

This is a strategic partnership for the maintenance of BC Ferries' smaller vessels. BC Ferries is planning approximately 20 scheduled dry-dockings for the minor vessels over the next five years, and will contribute millions of dollars in supporting local employment and services. The agreement also allows for emergency dry-docking space if required. The vessels that will be serviced at Point Hope Maritime under the agreement include: Kahloke, Klitsa, Kuper, Kwuna, Nicola, Nimpkish, Tachek and Quadra Queen II.

"BC Ferries has been an important and valued Point Hope client for many years. This five year partnership will allow for operational and fiscal efficiencies that result from the certainty of establishing a scheduled service," said Ian Maxwell, President and CEO Ralmax Group of Companies, owners of Point Hope Maritime. "We are proud to be recognized for the quality of work that our employees deliver, and welcome this strategic alliance that brings with it many benefits for the Capital Region." More than 650 businesses – the majority of them local – provide regular subcontracting and supplier services to Point Hope Maritime throughout the year.

Modernization and expansion at Point Hope over the past decade has resulted in a substantial, competitive dry-dock operation on Victoria Harbour, where four fully serviced spurlines can accommodate up to six vessels in the yard and additional vessels can be moored and serviced afloat. Up to 200 skilled trades, staff and contractors are employed at Point Hope delivering professional ship repair and maintenance services.

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BC Ferries also operates its own internal vessel refit facility known as the Fleet Maintenance Unit in Richmond, B.C. The facility contains a complex of workshops engaged in highly skilled ship repair activities such as machinery rebuilding, structural repairs, lifesaving system re-certification and coatings. However, BC Ferries does not have its own dry-docking facility and sources these services from the external ship repair market in British Columbia.

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.

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Photo of signing ceremony attached

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Photo courtesy Point Hope Maritime

Mark Collins, BC Ferries' President and CEO (far left) and Ian Maxwell, President and CEO Ralmax Group of Companies, owners of Point Hope Maritime (far right) oversee the signing of the contract by Mark Wilson, BC Ferries' Vice President of Engineering (centre left) and Riccardo Regosa, General Manager Point Hope Maritime (centre right).

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