

NEWS RELEASE

MARINE ATLANTIC'S NEWEST VESSEL, THE MV *BLUE PUTTEES*, ARRIVES IN CANADA

January 5, 2011

St. John's - Marine Atlantic's newest vessel, the MV *Blue Puttees*, arrived in Canada this morning making Port aux Basques, NL, its first port of call.

"The arrival of the MV *Blue Puttees* is a very proud moment for us," said Rob Crosbie, Chair of Marine Atlantic's Board of Directors. "To stand on the dock in Port aux Basques and see the MV *Blue Puttees* arriving as a Marine Atlantic vessel is certainly a rewarding event for me and a very memorable occasion for all our dedicated staff who have been part of this process."

"We are very pleased to welcome our newest vessel, the MV *Blue Puttees*, to our fleet," said Wayne Follett, President and CEO of Marine Atlantic. "This was a very significant project and it is exciting to see all of our hard work become reality as the vessel docks in Port aux Basques for the first time. With the arrival of the MV *Blue Puttees*, we now mark another significant milestone in our transition towards a modern and efficient ferry service for our customers.

"This vessel is truly impressive and while value of service is a very personal decision, we hope the improved amenities, increased capacity and greater reliability will better service the needs of all our customers. We have listened to our customers and look forward to this vessel beginning its service with Marine Atlantic in the coming weeks," added Follett.

During the refit process significant upgrades took place to the interior of the vessel including new seating, entertainment systems and aesthetic improvements to all public areas of the vessels. In addition, major modifications were made to the exterior of the vessel to make it a positive addition to the Marine Atlantic fleet.

The MV *Blue Puttees* will depart Port aux Basques later this evening en route to North Sydney where crew training and familiarization activities will take place. A vessel open house is being planned and details will be announced at a later date.

"We continue to work hard to bring about change within Marine Atlantic. The Government of Canada's 5-year, \$520 million investment is enabling us to implement our revitalization plans for our organization. We have already undertaken a number of initiatives to bring about positive change and make our fleet more modern and efficient for our customers. The arrival and subsequent introduction of the MV *Blue Puttees* is the latest improvement. I look forward to the continued changes planned for this Corporation over the next four years," said Crosbie.

BACKGROUND

Highlights of the MV *Blue Puttees*

The MV *Blue Puttees* has 96 cabins, double what was available on the MV *Caribou*.

The MV *Blue Puttees* has approximately 500 reclining chairs providing customers with comfortable and affordable options to relax during their travel.

The MV *Blue Puttees* has 40 per cent more vehicle capacity than the MV *Caribou*.

The MV *Blue Puttees* is designed to efficiently carry both passenger and commercial vehicles with its high deck heads and wide open decks that make loading and unloading easier.

The MV *Blue Puttees* has open air sections of the deck where restricted cargo and larger loads can be stored to transport.

The MV *Blue Puttees* has three areas for passenger dining that provide a range of options. Passengers can avail of quick service meals such as hot dogs and sandwiches or full course meals, depending on their appetite.

The MV *Blue Puttees* has various areas onboard to provide entertainment options for children, teens and adults. There is also internet access, gift shops and games for passengers to enjoy.

The MV *Blue Puttees* has televisions in cabins and seating areas to allow passengers to select a variety of entertainment options.

The MV *Blue Puttees* has elevators to each deck and many amenities to assist persons with disabilities.

The MV *Blue Puttees* has animal kennels that allow passengers to put their pets in climatically controlled conditions. Passengers will have access to pets in the kennel.

The MV *Blue Puttees* has new way finding signage that is colour coded and will guide passengers to amenities, entertainment options, car decks, cabins and other facilities.

The MV *Blue Puttees* has open access decks that permit passengers to go outside and enjoy the panoramic views and fresh air during the ocean crossing.