

----- Original Message ----- From: "George Prior"

Sent: Sunday, January 07, 2007 9:45 PM

Subject: Sea-to-Sky MCI Classics

Here are my photos of the three MCI Classics that were sold to BC Transit for the Squamish/Whistler Sea to Sky Commuter service - 8917, 8919 and 8919 (originally 4150, 4154 and 4160 respectively). According to a friend of mine who is a driver for Premier Pacific Coach Lines (which operates Whistler Direct Shuttle) one of them is regularly used on the free Whistler village shuttle. I'm guessing that this is 8919 on a regular basis because that is the only one of the three coaches which does not have the "Sea to Sky Commuter" decals along the top.

We had a chat with the supervisor at the Gondola Transit Exchange early in the day. Very nice guy, he approached us when he saw we were taking pictures and asked us if we were interested in the buses - when we told him that we had come to take pictures of the ex-Vancouver Classics, he told us when they were acquired, the changes that were made to them and such. Anyhow, he told us that the three units are stored in Squamish when they are not in use. They all had to get new tires, obviously, and new brakes. Apparently the old brakes were totally shot. The new paint job is real paint, and not just a vinyl wrap as some of us had suspected it might have been. Not surprising that they painted it, since BCT now owns the buses.... but what I don't get is why they didn't bother painting the buses into proper BCT livery. As it is, they just superimposed BCT colours onto the shape of the old Translink sweep. Maybe they wanted the commuter buses to look "different", I don't know.





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