



The Corporation of the CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER

THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Darrell. Mussatto

National Maritime Centre of the Pacific and the Arctic **Wednesday, January 11, 2006 – 10AM Lonsdale Quay**

Thank you all for coming. I would like to acknowledge Mayors Goldsmith-Jones and Walton from West Vancouver and North Vancouver District respectively Councillors: Perrault, Keating, Fearnley, Heywood, Schechter and Bookham from City Council. I would also like to acknowledge the current candidates for federal election Don Bell, Cindy Silver, Sherry Shaghagi and *Jim Stepehnsen* and I'm pleased to say are all supportive of this project. Also we have Katherine Whittred MLA North Vancouver Lonsdale and Ralph Sultan MLA West Vancouver Capilano.

This is a very exciting day for The North Shore, for the Province of British Columbia and indeed for Canada. Here, on the west coast of Canada, we have such a rich and vibrant relationship with the sea; we truly need a place to celebrate it.

That is why I am very pleased to announce that the City of North Vancouver is taking the next steps towards creating *The National Maritime Centre for the Pacific and the Arctic at the foot of Lonsdale in North Vancouver*.

A recently released Western Economic Partnership Report stated that the North Vancouver location is ideal from an historical and heritage standpoint.

A significant part of BC shipbuilding industry was once situated on the site and the St Roch and many other famous ships were built there. It is located at the centre of Canada's largest and busiest port and is within a clear view of downtown Vancouver, the nation's gateway to the Pacific and Asia.

We will now show a short video that outlines the significance of today's announcement.

Video – 7 minutes

I think the energy and excitement of that video speaks volumes about the potential we have before us.

All of the key potential partners, many of whom are here today, are very positive about the North Shore location and preliminary numbers suggest the *Centre* will be operationally sustainable in its third year. The site offers excellent accessibility by water, vehicle, public transit and pedestrian.

It is “a perfect fit.” the only site in Vancouver’s Inner Harbour that is capable of hosting water festivals and events with a wide range of deep sea vessels. It is smack in the middle of active port industry. We plan to create a dynamic combination of maritime industry, commerce, culture and history on our waterfront.

Our Council members have passed a unanimous motion to create *The National Maritime Society* to govern the new institution and obtain the necessary funding for the development of the design concept. The design concept needs to be finalized; capital costs need to be determined and a more detailed business plan must be prepared.

The City is working with Pinnacle International, developers of the Shipyard site, who will complete the heritage structures, as well as develop a hotel with a conference facility, commercial and residential buildings on the site. Two valuable waterfront assets have been recently completed: the St Roch Dock and the Burrard Dry Dock Pier – important components for a successful public waterfront and maritime precinct.

The City’s recently created Waterfront Project whose goal is to enhance public access to the water across the entire west half of the City, will oversee the next steps as we begin to set up the new Society.

The City of North Vancouver’s contribution is substantial: waterfront land, significant heritage structures, and the maintenance of public realm assets including the pier and public plazas.

A very important component of this project are our partners – the Districts of West and North Vancouver, Vancouver Port Authority, Tseil-Waututh First Nations, Squamish First Nations, Pinnacle International, the Washington Marine Group, Tourism Vancouver and BCIT’s Pacific Marine Training Institute.

The new Society will work closely with the Vancouver Maritime Museum, the North Vancouver Museum & Archives, Translink and Sea Bus, the newly expanded Vancouver Convention Centre, Grouse Mountain, the Capilano Suspension Bridge, Capilano College, Canadian Coast Guard, Canadian Navy,

Bluewater Cruising, Newtco Research and many more maritime, educational and commercial partners.

I am pleased to announce today that the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron have already committed to move all of their training to the new Centre. I should mention that in the crowd today we have Doris Sally and Peter of the CPPS

More than a museum, the *Centre* will be the destination for people to celebrate, discover and participate in the unique maritime fabric of the west coast – offering interactive and educational exhibits – indoor and outdoor events such as business forums and trade shows, sea festivals and film festivals.

It will serve as a training centre for all aspects of maritime activities. A seaside restaurant and a marina of seagoing vessels will be a dynamic part of the *Centre's* experience. The *Centre* will be used throughout the year...it will be an integral part of the community.

The *Centre's* financial viability is based on the need to supplement visitor/tourist admission fees which spike in the May to September months with ongoing revenues resulting from multi-uses – training, events, business forums, festivals, retail and a restaurant.

The City's cultural services will provide youth, festival and public arts programs...The North Vancouver Museum & Archives will showcase our shipbuilding story. *The National Maritime Centre* will be the anchor tenant in what has become a world-wide phenomenon of cities' transforming parts of their waterfront into vibrant maritime precincts.

As I conclude my remarks, I must recognize a few of the many people who have made today happen:

- I want to personally thank Mayor Pam Goldsmith-Jones of West Vancouver and Mayor Richard Walton of the District of North Vancouver, our MLA Katherine Whittred and our MP Don Bell for their support.
- At the City level Former Mayor Barbara Sharp has been a strong proponent of this project, and worked tirelessly to get to this point, as well former Mayor Jack Loucks who was supportive of this idea 20 years ago before we even knew it!
- Councillor Fearnley who had the foresight to get a hold of the *Creative Concept and Business Case* and apply it to the North Shore site;
- Ian Rokeby, Jim Delgado and the Board of the Vancouver Maritime Museum who had a dream of a new maritime facility;
- David Rodger and Robin Inglis of the North Vancouver Museum & Archives who also had a dream;

- Steve Rhodes of Western Economic Diversification who provided ongoing leadership and support;
- Patricia Bowles who was project manager for the studies that created a Vision and a business case for a dynamic, sustainable maritime centre;
- Aldrich Pears Associates who led a whole cadre of consultants to produce the work in a timely manner;
- And, Isabel Gordon, the City's Waterfront Project Development Manager who has orchestrated today's events and will be moving the project forward;

The National Maritime Centre will bring cultural and economic benefits to the North Shore community, the region, the Province of British Columbia and Canada. Today's announcement demonstrates that the *Centre* has the kind of widespread support it needs to move forward.

Thank you.