

news release

The Corporation of the City of North Vancouver
Corporate Services Department



Subject	City of North Vancouver Receives Federal and Provincial Funding for National Maritime Centre
Date	August 1, 2007

The City of North Vancouver is one step closer to delivering a **National Maritime Centre for the Pacific and the Arctic** to be located at the historic Pier development site in Lower Lonsdale.

The City has received \$560,000 in combined funding from the federal and provincial governments to develop a detailed business plan for a national and regional public attraction that celebrates the unique maritime fabric of Canada's west coast. The funding comes from Western Economic Diversification Canada and the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts.

"This significant investment from senior levels of government demonstrates strong support for a National Maritime Centre on our waterfront," says Mayor Darrell Mussatto. "The federal and provincial governments recognize that the development of a world-class maritime facility would draw local and international visitors to the City's historic waterfront. Not only would the National Maritime Centre be a major economic development initiative for the City, it has the potential to become a national landmark."

Located at the centre of Canada's largest and busiest port, The Pier development area provides the only site in the Vancouver Inner Harbour that is capable of hosting water festivals and events with a wide range of vessels, including tall ships, deep sea vessels and naval vessels. The National Maritime Centre would be a dynamic year round destination for residents and tourists, offering historic artifacts and interactive exhibits, maritime education and training, events, business forums and boat festivals as well as amenities such as restaurants and retail shops.

The National Maritime Centre has attracted the support of more than 40 potential partners, including the federal and provincial governments, the Vancouver Port Authority, leaders within the maritime and tourism industries, First Nations and educational partners. Once built, the National Maritime Centre would be self-sustaining through revenues generated from its retail outlets and rental fees.

The site is considered an ideal location because of its great historical significance, as a considerable part of BC's shipbuilding industry was once situated there. The venerable *St. Roch* (currently on display at the Vancouver Maritime Museum) as well as many other famous ships, was also built on the Pier site.

Overseeing the National Maritime Centre initiative is the City's Waterfront Project office whose goal is the enhance public access to the water across the entire west half of the City. www.cnv.org/waterfrontproject

For more information about the **National Maritime Centre for the Pacific and the Arctic**, visit www.cnv.org/NationalMaritimeCentre

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