



Subject City of North Vancouver Reaches Major Milestone in **National Maritime Centre Project** with Provincial Government Support

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The City of North Vancouver welcomes the provincial government's announcement of its official support of plans to establish a **National Maritime Centre for the Pacific and the Arctic** on the City's historic waterfront.

In the throne speech delivered by B.C. Lieutenant Governor Steven Point on Tuesday, the government announced the proposed **National Maritime Centre** will be a "world-class facility" developed as a public private partnership that "will be an important legacy for British Columbians and Canadians." With this commitment of support from the provincial government, the National Maritime Centre on the historic Pier development site in Lower Lonsdale is a significant step closer to being established and now awaits a similar commitment from the federal government.

"This financial commitment from the provincial government is a major milestone on the path to bringing a world-class maritime facility to the North Shore," says City of North Vancouver Mayor Darrell Mussatto. "Plans to establish a **National Maritime Centre** have been a truly collaborative process so far, involving senior levels of government, our municipality, private partnerships and a broad spectrum of the community. Our council is truly delighted to be working in partnership with the provincial government and the community to bring this project to fruition. I particularly acknowledge the longstanding support of the Vancouver Port Authority, the Washington Marine Group and the many other organizations that have supported this initiative."

Washington Marine Group CEO, Steve Frasher, a longstanding member of the National Maritime Centre's Leadership Council says, "This is excellent news and recognition of the importance of building on B.C.'s maritime heritage to educate the next generation. The Learning Centre in the NMC will build bridges between industry, education and students to support the Asia Pacific Gateway and Canada and the Province's economic competitiveness initiatives."

"I am so very pleased that the National Maritime Centre was supported in the Throne Speech. After many years of promoting the attributes of the Centre and the site, it is very rewarding to have some of that hard work pay off," says Katherine Whittred, MLA for North Vancouver-Lonsdale. "The site itself is an unparalleled location to celebrate our maritime heritage. The Centre will prove to be a great cultural benefit not only for all of North Vancouver but for all British Columbians."

Envisioned as a world-class facility, national landmark and major tourist attraction, the National Maritime Centre will 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.

During its development, the proposed Centre has attracted the support of more than 45 potential partners, including the federal, provincial and lower mainland municipal 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 commercial revenues generated on the site.

Located in the Pier development, the **National Maritime Centre** will be at the centre of the City's largest and busiest port. The proposed site is an ideal location and has been federally designated as having major historical significance because it was once the site of much of BC's shipbuilding industry. [www.cnv.org/ThePier](http://www.cnv.org/ThePier) For more information about the **National Maritime Centre for the Pacific and the Arctic**, visit [www.cnv.org/NationalMaritimeCentre](http://www.cnv.org/NationalMaritimeCentre)