

# news release

The Corporation of the City of North Vancouver  
Corporate Services Department



Subject	The City of North Vancouver Considers Next Steps for National Maritime Centre Project
Date	January 12, 2010

The City of North Vancouver has been advised by the Provincial Government that it is regrettably unable to provide the City with the necessary funding required for the delivery of the **National Maritime Centre for the Pacific and the Arctic**.

Minister of Tourism Culture and the Arts, Mr. Kevin Krueger has informed the City of North Vancouver that the Province of B.C. is unable to contribute further to the National Maritime Centre project planned for the City of North Vancouver's waterfront.

Without the Provincial financial contribution to the tri-government partnership, the National Maritime Centre will not move forward as originally envisioned. Funding for the project was structured as a 3-way partnership of local, provincial and federal government resources as well as private sector funding. The Federal government had made an unofficial partial commitment to the initiative subject to a matching commitment from the Province.

In 2008, the Province of British Columbia contributed \$9 million in start up funds to the City of North Vancouver for the National Maritime Centre and announced in its throne speeches of 2008 and 2009 that it would contribute further funds subject to federal matching dollars. The Province states that while the NMC was a desirable project, under the current economic climate and the Province's budget challenges, it is unable to provide further funding.

While a disappointing outcome for this notable initiative, the City is fortunate to have a significant and highly valuable waterfront land asset that has been delivered through the pier development.

"We are disappointed with this outcome, however, we will move forward," says Mayor Darrell Mussatto. "The City has supported this project for four years and worked closely with the Provincial and Federal governments as well as the private sector. We appreciate the Province's current financial difficulties and respect its decision. The City is grateful for the efforts of many stakeholders who have given their time and resources to bring the vision of a National Maritime Centre this far, particularly the NMC Society. We will move forward and determine a strategy for this significant waterfront property keeping in mind our objective of creating a waterfront that is a highly desirable destination for our residents and visitors."

Next steps for the City include a review of options and preparation of a revised plan for use of the site that will bring further economic benefits to the City and the neighbouring waterfront business community. The City intends to take advantage of this prime waterfront location, and embraces the challenge of considering options and alternatives.

Envisioned as a world-class facility, national landmark and major tourist attraction, the National Maritime Centre was slated to be a 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 City will spend the next few weeks reviewing options and determining next steps.

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