

National Maritime Centre for the Pacific and the Arctic Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

1. What is the National Maritime Centre?

- The National Maritime Centre will be the West Coast hub of maritime activity and education. It will bring together historic artifacts and interactive exhibits, maritime education and training, trade shows, forums and water based activities like sea and boat festivals to be a dynamic year round destination for residents and tourists.

2. What kind of support is there for the Centre?

- There is widespread support for the NMC from potential partners in the education and training, tourism and transportation sectors, the maritime and shipping industries, First Nations and the other north shore municipalities.

3. Why is it proposed for North Vancouver?

- A jointly funded federal-provincial study analyzed sites for the NMC in Vancouver and the north shore concluding this location on the former Versatile Pacific Shipyards site best met the tests of heritage, visibility, access, deep water moorage and financial sustainability and was big enough to develop a truly vibrant multi-dimensional maritime centre.

4. Where did this idea come from?

- The recommendation to build the NMC on the Pier site came from a jointly funded federal-provincial study that originally looked for a new business model and location for the Vancouver Maritime Museum and decided this site best met the criteria for success of an expanded concept that included education and water based components as well as exhibits and displays.

5. Is this the relocation of the Vancouver Maritime Museum to North Vancouver?

- This Centre will be more than a museum and will include interactive exhibits, education and training components and be a venue for maritime trade shows and forums. The Vancouver Maritime Museum is fully supportive of the NMC and many of its members are working on this new project.

6. What does the City of Vancouver think about this project?

- The City of Vancouver has indicated a willingness to discuss the future of the Vancouver Maritime Museum collection of which the city is owner and the future of the *Saint Roch*, a vessel built in 1928 at the NMC site when it was an active shipyard.. We hope to work cooperatively with the City of Vancouver to make this a positive development for both cities and the region.

7. What does the Vancouver Maritime Museum think of this project?

- The Vancouver Maritime Museum which initiated the studies that led to the NMC proposal is fully supportive and has endorsed the project. Some of its members are helping to develop this new project.

8. Where will the money come to build it?

- We anticipate it will be jointly raised from the private and public sectors. One of the studies underway now is to assess private sector capital support which is something governments want to see in a project like this. The key waterfront site on which the NMC is intended to be built has already been obtained. It's value along with components contributed by the developer amounts to about \$27 million.

9. How does this new institution avoid the financial problems most cultural institutions face?

- To ensure financial sustainability the business model is to create a Shipyards Historic Precinct Trust to manage the site as a whole (like Granville Island) dedicating the revenue stream from the precinct's retail and venue rental components to the operation and maintenance of the Centre (NMC), once built. This will ensure no need for government funds for ongoing operating costs once the NMC opens.

10. Are the federal and provincial governments supportive?

- The federal and provincial governments who jointly funded the studies leading to the NMC concept have been very encouraging. They are awaiting the outcome of the current studies and are being kept fully briefed on the progress of the studies.

11. How can council have an open mind at the public hearing if they've already voted the money for the studies to develop the Centre?

- Council has voted to fund the studies to see if the project is feasible. The study outcome will inform council, the public and the public hearing process at which council will have a fully open mind as no decisions have been made to proceed with the project.

12. What's the benefit of this project?

- This project with its many components will have tremendous economic spinoff during construction and operation. It will be a major tourist draw and both the Centre itself and the many businesses that will be developed on the site will generate jobs. More detailed projections of economic benefit will be available when the current set of studies is completed this summer.