



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Media Contact: Larry R. Orr - 604.982.3913

September 13, 2007

National Maritime Centre Reaches New Milestone with Federal and Provincial Funding

NORTH VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA: September 13, 2007 - Thanks to a \$560,000 Federal-Provincial grant to develop a business plan, the *National Maritime Centre* is one step closer to reality.

“The goal of developing the *National Maritime Centre* has reached another significant milestone,” said MP James Moore, on behalf of Western Economic Development Minister Rona Ambrose. Moore believes the future site is “aptly placed on the waterfront in North Vancouver, at the heart of Canada’s largest and busiest port - the port of Vancouver.”

Government backing for the *Centre* is bolstered by support from more than 20,000 businesses across British Columbia.

MLA Katherine Whittred, Province of British Columbia, sees the funding as an investment in BC’s future. “In this great waterfront location, we are at the hub of mixed commercial/public redevelopment, right next to the SeaBus, right next to Lonsdale Quay... This Centre will not only provide a window on our maritime cultural identity and heritage, it will also provide opportunities for training and development.”

Located at the foot of Lonsdale in North Vancouver, the *Centre* would provide 65,000 square feet for historical artifacts, exhibits, maritime training, business forums and trade shows. The adjacent buildings would have complementary retail businesses whose lease revenue would subsidize the *Centre* as well as outdoor spaces for water based activity, maritime and other festivals.

“As a year-round destination for both tourists and locals, *The National Maritime Centre* will be a major economic driver for the North Shore,” said North Vancouver Mayor Darrell Mussatto. “The *Centre* would create more than four hundred jobs, and would be self-sustaining through revenues generated by retail outlets and rental fees.”

Backed by the education, training, tourism and transportation sectors, the maritime shipping industry, First Nations and government, the *Centre* would also house the *Saint Roch*, a historic vessel built in 1928 at the site when it was the Burrard Dry Dock.

Mayor Mussatto sees the *Centre* as much more than a tourist draw. “The *Centre* will be both a business hub and a venue for celebration.” He and council look forward to the business plan being completed this fall so provincial and federal Treasury Boards can consider the NMC’s capital funding request.

-30-

For more information:

Larry R. Orr
Manager, Special Services and Projects
National Maritime Centre Project Director
City of North Vancouver
Waterfront Project Office
105 Carrie Cates Court, North Vancouver, B.C. V7M 3J4
Phone: 604.982.3913 Fax: 604.988.7825
Email: lrr@cnv.org Web: <http://www.cnv.org/>