

VANCOUVER MARITIME MUSEUM NEWS RELEASE

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INNER CITY SCHOOL CHILDREN EXPERIENCE LIVE YOUR DREAM

Thanks to the generosity of the RBC Royal Bank Foundation, hundreds of grade 3 to 7 school children are being given the opportunity to experience a new education program called *Live Your Dream: Underwater Explorer*.

Live Your Dream encourages students to set goals and achieve them through hard work and persistence. The Vancouver Maritime Museum's executive director, James Delgado, a maritime archaeologist, author and host of the National Geographic International television series, *The Sea Hunters*, delivers the program to ten Vancouver elementary schools who participate in the Royal Bank's after school care program. During the program, Delgado talks about his own experiences and how his childhood dream of becoming an archaeologist came true. Delgado grew up in a working class family, working his way through school, always believing in his dream of becoming an archaeologist and an explorer. Delgado has found that his message of "living your dream," by hard work and never losing sight of your goals has relevance to young audiences.

Schools participating in the RBC Royal Bank program receive materials on underwater archaeology, shipwrecks, and Jim's explorations, including copies of some of Jim's books for each class. Schools are provided with lesson plans that focus on the subjects of maritime history, archaeology, deepsea exploration, and the similarities between ocean explorers ("aquanauts") and space explorers ("astronauts"). The RBC Foundation is also the sponsor of the Museum's *Underwater Archaeology Program*. This popular Museum based school program for students in grades 5 to 7 brings history and exploration alive through underwater archaeology.

"RBC is proud to be a supporter of the Live Your Dream program; this program has the ability to open up a whole new world of learning to these children. We are very proud to be a part of bringing this exciting opportunity to inner-city schools," said Ben Langelaar, Vice President Business Markets, RBC Royal Bank.

The Vancouver Maritime Museum tells the stories of Canada's ties to the Pacific with an emphasis on Canada's gateway port communities in the greater Vancouver region. As a centre for life-long learning, the Museum interprets our ongoing interaction with the sea through exhibitions and programs for people of all ages. The Museum is working toward the 2010 goal of becoming the new, larger, self-sufficient National Maritime Museum of Canada, Pacific. Visitor information 604 257-8300.



Photo:

On March 10 at Strathcona Elementary School, the RBC Royal Bank Foundation presented a cheque for \$10,000 to the Vancouver Maritime Museum for the *Live your Dream: Underwater Explorer* program for eastside Vancouver schools.

Ron Suzuki, After School Program Coordinator; Ben Langelaar, RBC Royal Bank Vice President, Business Markets; Jim Delgado, Vancouver Maritime Museum Executive Director; Vanessa Noga, RBC Royal Bank Manager, Business Markets; Cathy Muller, RBC Royal Bank Senior Account Manager, Business Markets