



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FUNDS PLANNING FOR EXPANSION OF VANCOUVER MARITIME MUSEUM

Vancouver, B.C.— The Honourable Stephen Owen, Minister of Public Works and Government Services, on behalf of the Honourable Dr. Rey D. Pagtakhan, Minister of Western Economic Diversification, today announced funding of \$150,000 to help the Vancouver Maritime Museum plan for its future growth.

“The Vancouver Maritime Museum has a vital role to play in preserving and sharing this country’s rich maritime history, but it can currently only exhibit five per cent of its collection,” said Minister Owen. “The Government of Canada is pleased to help the museum develop an expansion plan that will be sustainable for the community and provide additional tourism and educational opportunities.”

The Vancouver Maritime Museum is the principal maritime museum on the Pacific Coast of Canada, and one of the major maritime museums on the West Coast of North America. It houses the restored RCMP police vessel St. Roch as well as many national treasures. Through exhibitions, programs, and its maritime library, the museum interprets Canadians’ ongoing interaction with the sea for nearly 100,000 visitors each year.

"Interest and support for the concept of a National Maritime Museum of Canada, Pacific has grown substantially since we first unveiled that vision a year ago," said James Delgado, Executive Director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum. "This partnership with the federal government is a critical step in the process. The next several months will see a comprehensive plan, financial models, and the development of exciting, hands-on, interactive and immersive displays and visitor experiences."

The Department of Canadian Heritage is also contributing \$20,000 to this project through its Museums Assistance Program, which provides financial support to Canadian museums and related institutions for projects that foster excellence in museum activities and that facilitate access to the treasures of Canada’s collective heritage.

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Western Economic Diversification Canada is the federal department mandated to support economic diversification in communities across Western Canada through activities that promote Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Sustainable Communities. Funding for this project was provided for in the March 2004 federal budget.

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A stronger West. A stronger Canada