



Vehicle Processing Centre a big economic impact for Nanaimo

The new Vehicle Processing Centre will become a major centre of economic activity when it begins operations

The new BC Vehicle Processing Centre is a major undertaking that will greatly impact the Nanaimo economy.

The existing pier is being upgraded to allow for berthing of a modern Pure Car and Truck Carrier (PCTC), a specialized cargo vessel used to transport vehicles and equipment.

Nanaimo was chosen as it provides direct short-sea connections to the Lower Mainland, at a time when European Automotive Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) are experiencing significant capacity con-

straints and other issues elsewhere.

“Phase 1 will see the complete exterior of the building refinished, and 30,000 square feet of the interior retrofit will be a fully functional vehicle processing centre,” says Port Co-CEO Mike Davidson.

Co-CEO Ian Marr adds that following the arrival of the first vessel in January, “vehicles will arrive every two weeks for the first year, totaling approximately 10,000 within year one. At this point we are seeing 20-25 people daily working in the warehouse, and another four

or five on the marine works,” adds Marr. “We anticipate another 10 more starting this week for the civil and electrical works.”

Western Stevedoring/SSA, engineering companies, Canada Border Service Agency and Transport Canada employees are also already working on the site.

Port of Nanaimo Vice Chair Donna Hais says discussions began with Western Stevedoring/SSA more than 18 months ago.

“Shortly after the initial discussions opened, the federal government

announced that the National Trade Corridor Fund Program was receiving proposal requests for projects within the program’s parameters, to which we applied, and were fortunate to receive funding,” says Hais.

“This project is a \$19 million investment overall,” says Port Chair Michelle Corfield. “We are grateful that the federal government has contributed \$6.3 million toward it as well, which indicates they are as optimistic about this project and its positive impact on the region as we are at the Port.”

Robbin Sinclair appointed to Port of Nanaimo

Robbin Sinclair has been appointed to the Port of Nanaimo as the Federal appointee by Transport Minister Marc Garneau.

Sinclair said she is excited to join the Nanaimo Port Authority.

“After several years working in the eastern Arctic, I have a greater appreciation of how vital marine transportation infrastructure is to a community’s economic development. I look forward to working with our community partners and see the Port business grow and create more opportunities for our community over all”, she added.

Sinclair is an entrepreneur and independent management consultant engaged by businesses and government with two decades of economic development experience and contributions in the eastern Arctic. Her areas of expertise are financial management, governance/accountability and project management.

Sinclair has worked in both a professional and volunteer capacity with boards of directors and serves as a council member with the energy regulatory body in Nunavut.

Previously she helped establish Nunavut’s first Habitat for Humanity affiliate, working in consultation with Habitat’s Canadian and International Boards and was instrumental in achieving Habitat’s first remote northern build.

Working on deep sea port infrastructure and marine transportation development in the Arctic over the last few years, she is a corporate member of the Master Mariners of Canada.

Sinclair attributes her business success to a strong foundation of formal academic education complemented by a number of professional and internationally recognized credentials and a commitment to life-long learning. She now lives next to the Salish Sea where she spent many years in her youth.

The Port of Nanaimo is one of 18 Port Authorities across Canada, established under the Canada Marine Act and Letters Patent to promote and support the national, regional and local economies and to ensure a safe and secure harbour for cargo operations.

See more at www.npa.ca



Robbin Sinclair
Port of Nanaimo Director