
NEWS RELEASE

CHAMBERS ACROSS BC SUPPORT WEST COAST SHIPBUILDING BID

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prince George, May 31, 2011 – At the BC Chamber Annual General Meeting in Prince George, BC delegates unanimously supported the resolution calling on the BC Government to actively support Seaspan Shipyards' West Coast bid under the Federal Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy (NSPS). The NSPS is a 30-year, \$33 billion federal program to rebuild Canada's Navy and Coast Guard vessels.

"The Chamber believes it is critical that all parties work together towards securing BC's NSPS bid, and the more than 3000 jobs and \$20 billion of economic activity it will bring to the Province of BC," said John Winter, President and CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce.

The Chambers of North Vancouver, Greater Victoria, and Richmond drafted the motion, however, this project would have an economic impact throughout Metro Vancouver, Vancouver Island and the province as a whole. The benefits are anticipated to extend to other BC shipyards that will participate with Seaspan Shipyards plus suppliers of everything from construction to professional services. In addition, the cluster of companies, capital and human resources it will support will act as a continued catalyst for the province's technology sector. It will provide new opportunities for knowledge transfer between our post-secondary institutions and fostering the next generation of marine industry and technologies.

"As the provinces of Quebec and Nova Scotia have already been to Ottawa and are strongly supporting bids in their provinces, its imperative that the BC Government engage the Federal Government and members of Cabinet to ensure that BC's interests are front and centre," added Winter.

Responses under the RFP process are due in Ottawa July 7th, and a decision is scheduled to be made in early September. Seaspan Shipyards, owned by Seaspan Marine Corporation, is one of four qualified bidders for the NSPS.

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