

Robert George, Vice-Admiral (ret'd)

1147 St Patrick Street, Victoria, BC , V8S 4Y3

25April 2019

Mayor Barb Desjardins
1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt V9A 3P1

Dear Mayor Desjardins

I am writing you in the hope that you share with me the importance of preserving Canada's maritime history.

As a start, you are likely aware that the Maritime Museum of BC (MMBC) is a major centre for Canadian maritime history, especially for the west and north coasts. You may also know that four years ago, the MMBC lost its premises in the Bastion Square building that once served as a vice-admiralty court. The Province of BC, who owns the building, deemed it to be unsafe. The vast majority of MMBC's collection is now in storage and unseen and unappreciated by the public.

To preserve and display our rich Pacific marine heritage, the MMBC has developed a proposal to return to its previous building and expanding it to house its collections and simultaneously create a new national museum: the Canadian Maritime Museum. Presently, the six national museums and their affiliates are all in eastern Canada, except for one in Winnipeg.

To establish the Canadian Maritime Museum, we need the federal government to embrace this far-reaching concept. Therefore, I'm urging you to write to the representatives listed below and voice your support for this brilliant idea.

Here are just a few points you may use to support the establishment of a Canadian Maritime Museum:

- showcases Canadian and British Columbian maritime history and artefacts not available now;
- preserves and improves a National Historic Site that once served as a Vice-Admiralty Court;
- establishes educational programs for students of all ages;
- establishes important relationships with First Nations in the spirit of reconciliation;
- invites Indigenous leaders to create displays reflecting their heritage and culture;
- develops museum studies and mentorship programs for Indigenous and other students;

And here are federal contacts to whom you could send a letter:

Federal Contacts

Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister, pm@pm.gc.ca

Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism,
hon.pablo.rodriguez@canada.ca

Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian
Coast Guard, min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,


Robert George, Vice-Admiral (ret'd)
Supporter National Maritime Museum Initiative

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
RECEIVED: APR 30 2019		
Referred: <i>Anja</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC