Canada | Coast Guard Garde côtière | Royal Canadian Navy Marine Royale canadienne | BCFerries



NEXT WAVE

THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR MARINE TRAINING

PRESENTED BY:
CAPTAIN RON BURCHETT I CAPTAIN ROGER A. WILLIAMS I CAPTAIN R. GIORUARD

PROPELLING POTENTIAL

THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR MARINE TRAINING

is a proposed world-class facility to be located on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. This centre will address a critical gap in Canada's maritime training infrastructure by offering hands-on, on-water training using manned scale models, simulators, and training tugs. It will serve a broad spectrum of marine professionals—from entry-level cadets to experienced pilots and tug captains- while also supporting innovation in vessel design and marine safety.

The centre will be industry-led, non-profit, and governed by a Board of Directors composed of leaders from the Canadian Coast Guard, the Royal Canadian Navy, commercial marine operators, Indigenous communities, and international training experts.







THE PROBLEM [AND THE SOLUTION]

Canada is facing a significant shortage of trained marine professionals. Approximately 19,000 workers in the marine sector are expected to retire over the next decade. Despite having six recognized marine training institutions, Canada lacks a dedicated on-water training facility using manned models- a standard in countries like France, Australia, and the UK.

THIS PROJECT ADDRESSES:

- The lack of domestic training infrastructure: Currently, Canadian pilots must travel abroad for specialized training.
- The generational knowledge gap: As senior captains and pilots retire, their expertise is not being passed on.
- The need for modern, inclusive recruitment: The marine sector must attract a new, diverse generation of workers.

CADET TO CAPTAIN

THE CENTRE WILL OFFER

- A cadet program to introduce youth to marine careers.
- On-water training using scale models and training tugs.
- Simulation and real-time data analysis for advanced manoeuvring.
- Joint training for tug captains and pilots to improve coordination and safety.

MARKET OPPORTUNITY

The global marine industry is undergoing rapid technological change, with increasing demand for skilled workers in:

Tug and escort operations · Coastal piloting · Ferry and fast ferry operations
Commercial fishing · Dredging and port services · Naval and Coast Guard operations

Canada's position as a net exporter of natural resources makes maritime transportation essential. A domestic training centre will reduce reliance on foreign facilities and help meet growing workforce needs. In addition to commercial demand, the Centre of Excellence for Marine Training will work in tandem with the Canadian government's renewed focus on national security and maritime sovereignty. Recent federal investments in the Royal Canadian Navy and Canadian Coast Guard underscore the need for a highly trained, modern marine workforce. The Centre would support recruitment and readiness for these agencies by offering STCW-compliant training and hands-on experience with advanced vessel technologies.





TIDAL TOMORROW

EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS FOR GRADUATES

Canadian Coast Guard	BC Ferries and other ferry operators	Marine pilotage authorities
Royal Canadian Navy	Commercial tug and towing companies	Port authorities and dredging firms

CADET PROGRAM AND INCLUSIVE TRAINING

At the heart of the Centre is a robust cadet program designed to train youth, including Indigenous youth and women from Canada and around the world. This program offers a pathway to high-quality, well-paying careers in the marine sector. It also provides reskilling & upskilling opportunities for workers from declining industries such as aquaculture. The training is inclusive and accessible, with scholarships and industry-sponsored placements available for students facing financial barriers. By investing in people, the Centre will help build a diverse and resilient marine workforce for the future.









BLUE ECONOMY

THE BUSINESS MODEL

The Centre will operate as a non-profit, industry-led organization with a governance structure that includes:

- A Board of Directors representing key sectors
- An Executive Director to oversee operations
- Partnerships with Indigenous communities, training institutions, and government agencies







The facility will operate 10 months per year and be available for:

· Entry-level and recertification training ·
· Testing of new vessel designs and technologies ·
· Incident re-creation and risk analysis ·
· International pilot and tug training ·

SUSTAINABLE BY DESIGN

The proposed facility will be a model of environmental sustainability. It will be equipped with solar panels and designed to be power-positive—generating more energy than it consumes. The surplus energy will be sold back to the grid, allowing the facility to recover its construction costs within 18 years. This commitment to sustainability reflects The Centre of Excellence for Marine Training's forward-looking approach and alignment with Canada's clean energy goals.

FROM KEEL TO CAMPUS

SEE THE VISION



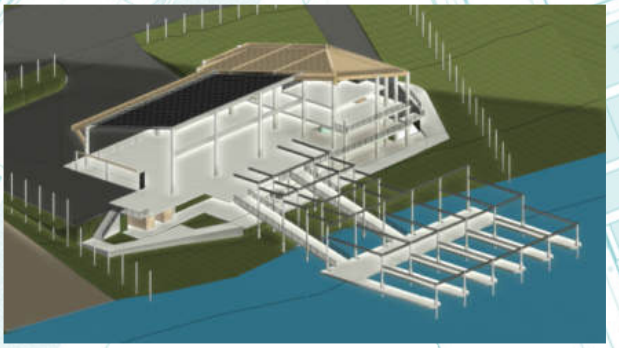


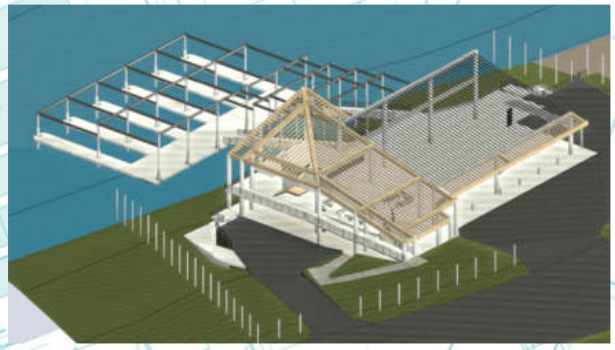












SEA FORWARD

TIMELINE OF KEY MILESTONES

Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Q2 2026	Q3 2026	Q4 2026	Q2 2027
Secure site and feasibility study	Establish Board of Directors	Secure federal/provincial funding	Hire Executive Director and staff	Begin facility construction	Launch cadet and pilot training programs



APPROXIMATELY **43%** OF CANADA'S MARINE TRANSPORTATION WORK FORCE IS SET TO RETIRE IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS.

KEY TEAM MEMBERS



CAPTAIN RON BURCHETT

Marine innovator with 45+ years of experience in tug operations, vessel design, and training. Designer of the BRAtt training tug and supplier of training models to global centres.





CAPTAIN R. GIROUARD

Retired Rear Admiral and former Assistant Commissioner, Canada Coast Guard (Western Region),



CAPTAIN ROGER A. WILLIAMS

Active BC Coast Pilot with deep knowledge of local marine operations.



PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE

Canada

Coast Guard Garde côtière

ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY MARINE ROYALE CANADIENNE

BCFerries

NAVAL ARCHITECTS

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP GROUPS

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES
(E.G., PORT REVEL, FRANCE)







AHOY!
A CALL TO ACTION

WE ARE SEEKING:

Funding from federal and provincial governments to support capital and operational costs. The initial capital investment is estimated at $20 million for construction of the facility and purchase of equipment.

The cost of land is not included in this estimate.

Land for the facility, either with an existing 3-5 acre lake or space to build one, year-round access, proximity to an airport, accommodations, and schools to support cadet and outreach programs. Partnerships with industry, Indigenous communities, and educational institutions to co-develop training programs and support workforce development.

OUR BLUE ECONOMY CONTRIBUTES
$7.6 BILLION
TO BRITISH COLUMBIA'S GDP







THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Port Revel Training Centre (France)
https://www.portrevel.com/

Cummins BRATT Training Tug Case Study
https://www.cummins.com/case-studies/bratt-burchett-robert-allan-training-tug

MITAGS Maritime Apprenticeship Program (USA)
https://gcaptain.com/mitags-maritime-apprenticeship-program-building-the-future-of-the-maritime-workforce/

Maritime Workforce Challenges
https://www.marinelog.com/white-paper/navigating-talent-your-guide-to-finding-and-retaining-top-maritime-workers/

Setting Sail for Growth Means More Jobs in BC's Marine Industries
https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023jedi0034-000759

Marine Sector in Canada - Imagine Marine
https://imagine-marine.ca/marine-industry

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