

NEWSLETTER



Spring is Here!

As we embrace the vibrancy of spring, the Port of Nanaimo stands as a testament to growth, innovation, and the spirit of community. Our first quarter of 2024 has been marked by remarkable events, strategic developments, and an unwavering commitment to our region's prosperity.



Strategic Milestones and Collaborative Projects at the Port of Nanaimo

In an exciting development this year, the Port of Nanaimo is focusing on strategic initiatives that promise to reshape our operations and impact on the regional economy significantly.

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Chair: Dr. Michelle Corfield
Vice Chair: Capt. Fred Denning
Directors:
Barbara Coe
Jeet Manhas
Shiva Dean
Phil Dwyer

CHAIR'S REPORT DR. MICHELLE CORFIELD

In this season of renewal and reflection, we find ourselves embracing both the joy of achievement and the solemnity of remembrance. As we navigate through these spring months, it is with a heavy heart that we pay tribute to Mike Davidson, our esteemed Chief Operating Officer. Mike's visionary leadership and unwavering commitment were instrumental in shaping the success of our port and our community. His passing leaves a void in our hearts and our community, yet his legacy endures, inspiring us to continue building on the solid foundation he helped establish. We mourn his loss, but equally, we celebrate the indelible mark he left on our community, and our lives. We have several exciting initiatives underway and we look forward to sharing more with you as the year progresses. We're just getting started!



Dr. Michelle Corfield
Chair – Port of Nanaimo

PRESIDENT & CEO REPORT IAN MARR

I am pleased to highlight the recent accomplishments and upcoming initiatives at the Port of Nanaimo. On March 8, we celebrated the contributions of the incredible women in our port on International Women's Day. We also marked the centennial of our dedicated Commissionaires.

Looking forward, we are expanding our capabilities and community involvement. Highlights include the successful Port Connect Marine Career Fair and strategic team additions with Kylee Baker and Meraz Sekhon joining us. We are working on the Duke Point phase 2/3 project, which will enhance our operational efficiency, and have begun a feasibility study for Duke Point phase 4 to support future growth. Our engagement in global markets continues to strengthen.

We welcome the return of cruise ships to Nanaimo, indicating a strong revival in cruise tourism. The Vancouver Island Ferry Company and BC Vehicle Processing Centre have both seen significant successes, contributing to our local economy. We also participated in the CLIA Cruise Symposium, Seatrade Cruise Global Conference, and the Canada South Korea Trade Mission to further develop international relationships.

In the community, we look forward to active participation in local events such as the bathtub races and World Oceans Day. Thank you for your continued trust and collaboration.



Ian Marr
President & CEO –
Port of Nanaimo

CHAIR & CEO REPORT CONT.



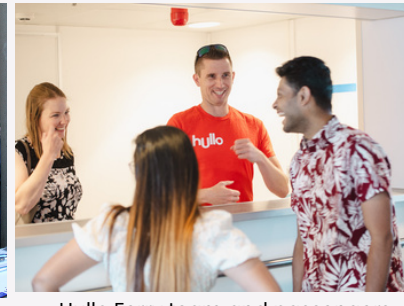
International Women's Day



Commissionaires Centennial



Emil Tomescu (left), Patrick Belanger (right) at Port Connect!



Hullo Ferry team and passengers

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Donna Hais, recognizing her for her nine-year tenure as board chair at the Port of Nanaimo. Her leadership and contributions have been pivotal to our progress and achievements, and we hope to see her back on our board in the future!

Amidst these moments of honour and celebration, we are pleased to welcome Phil Dwyer as our newest Board Director. Phil's expertise and vision are valuable additions to our team as we look ahead to a future brimming with promise and potential. Under his guidance, alongside our dedicated team, we are excited to steer the Port of Nanaimo towards new horizons, embracing the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.



Donna Hais

Former Chair - Port of Nanaimo



Phil Dwyer C.M.

Board Director - Port of Nanaimo

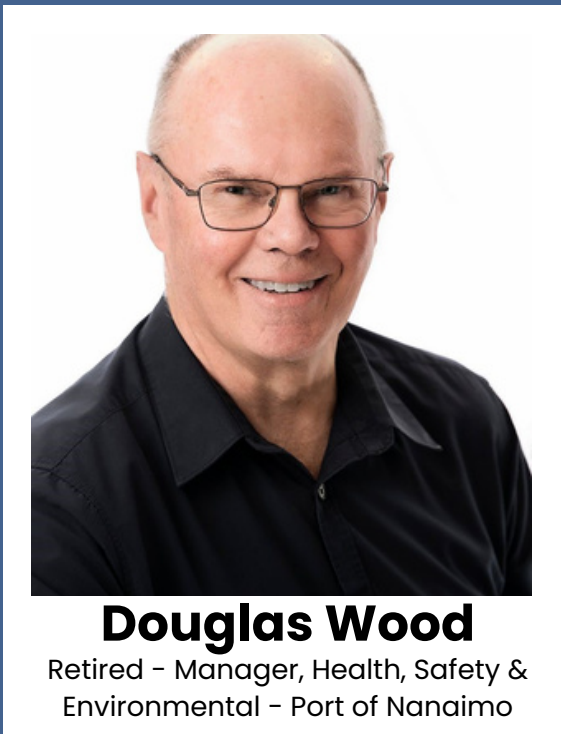
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS AND CELEBRATIONS

PORT CONNECT! MARINE CAREER FAIR

The Port Connect Marine Career Fair, held at the Port Theatre on March 13th, 2024, was a resounding success. Featuring 25 marine and port-adjacent organizations, the participating organizations were; BC Coast Pilots, BC Ferries, BCIT, Canada Coast Guard, Canada Border Services Agency, Canadian Union of Skilled Workers, Central Island Multicultural Centre, DP World, Gowlland Towing, GRT Environmental, Helijet, Herold Engineering, Hullo/VIFC, Pacific Pilotage Authority, Port of Nanaimo, RCMP – Marine, Seamor Marine, Seaspan, Snuneymuxw Marine Division, Transport Canada Marine Safety and Security, Vancouver Island University, Vancouver Island Whale Watch, WCMRC, Western Maritime Institute, and WorkBC Nanaimo.

Thank you to all who participated and attended, and we look forward to seeing you again at the next Port Connect!

The event attracted nearly 300 attendees, showcasing the dynamic career opportunities within our industry locally and across Canada.



HAPPY RETIREMENT, DOUG!

All of us at the Port of Nanaimo bid a fond farewell to Doug Wood, our esteemed Manager of Health, Safety, and Environmental. Doug's retirement marks the end of an era defined by unwavering dedication to safety, efficiency, and environmental stewardship within our operations. His contributions have been instrumental in enhancing our workplace and ensuring the port's success and sustainable growth. We extend our deepest gratitude to Doug for his years of service and the significant legacy he leaves behind. Here's to wishing Doug a retirement filled with well-deserved rest, adventure, and happiness. Thank you, Doug, for setting a standard of excellence and being a true inspiration to us all.

INTRODUCING THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Kylee Baker – Manager, Health, Safety, and Environmental

Kylee joined our team on January 2nd, 2024, as the new Manager of Health, Safety, and Environmental. With a passion for creating and maintaining safe and sustainable working environments, Kylee ensures that the Port of Nanaimo not only meets but exceeds health, safety, and environmental standards. Her expertise and dedication are vital to our ongoing commitment to providing a secure and environmentally responsible port environment. "I was thrilled when I got the offer to join the Port of Nanaimo team and contribute to fostering a culture of safety, sustainability, and excellence that propels us toward a successful future." – Kylee Baker



Captain Meraz Sekhon – Assistant Harbour Master

We are also excited to welcome Captain Meraz Sekhon to our team as the Assistant Harbour Master. With an impressive background in maritime safety and operations, Captain Sekhon brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Port of Nanaimo. His role is crucial in upholding our high standards of maritime safety and ensuring that our port operations run smoothly and efficiently. Captain Sekhon's expertise and leadership will undoubtedly be invaluable assets to our port community. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Kylee and Captain Sekhon as they embark on their new journeys with the Port of Nanaimo. We look forward to their contributions and the positive impact they will have on our port's future. "Honoured to be part of the highly safety conscious, efficient and result oriented team of Nanaimo Port Authority. It would be my earnest endeavour to give my very best in adding many more feathers to the already decorated cap of the team!" – Captain Sekhon



DUKE POINT PHASE 2/3 CONSTRUCTION, AND PHASE 4 FEASIBILITY STUDY: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The Port of Nanaimo's and DP World's Duke Point expansion continues to make significant strides, underscoring our commitment to enhancing our maritime logistics and supply chain capabilities. **Phases 2 and 3** of the expansion focus on upgrading existing infrastructures, such as docking facilities and cargo handling areas, and integrating state-of-the-art technologies to streamline operations. These phases are critical as they lay the groundwork for the proposed further expansions and ensure that our facilities can handle the anticipated increase in trade volume.

Phase 2 includes upgraded cargo handling systems, resulting in a more efficient turnaround time for shipping operations and Phase 3 involves extending our docking facilities to accommodate larger vessels, a move that will significantly boost our capacity and operational flexibility.

The NTCF provided funding for expanding the existing wharf from 182m to 325m, installing a new wharf crane rail system in order to replace the existing crane with two 80-foot cranes, constructing a new covered warehouse for pulp and other forest products, a new administration and maintenance building; and a new truck gate, enlarging the storage area in the terminal upland areas, and upgrading the drainage, sewers, electrical, water and security around the terminal.

The Duke Point Phase Four Feasibility Study is not just a project; it's a vision for the future. This comprehensive study aims to explore the potential expansion and enhancement of our facilities, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of maritime logistics and supply chain management. By assessing the feasibility of this expansion, we are taking a proactive step towards accommodating future growth, enhancing operational efficiency, and supporting the economic prosperity of our region and Canada.

Our efforts are amplified by the partnerships we've forged with pivotal stakeholders. The collaboration with the Province of British Columbia, the Vancouver Island Economic Alliance (VIEA), the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET), and the National Trade Corridor Fund (NTCF) reflects our shared vision for a resilient and efficient regional and national supply chain. These partnerships bring diverse perspectives and expertise to the table.

Following a careful and thoughtful review of all the proposal submissions with our partners, we agreed that Deloitte was the best suited for the job. Known for their global expertise and insightful analyses, Deloitte's involvement in the Duke Point Phase Four Feasibility Study is set to offer invaluable insights. Their comprehensive evaluations and recommendations are expected to shape the strategic direction of our port, ensuring that we are well-equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future.

As we move forward, our focus remains steadfast on enhancing the efficiency and resilience of our operations. The initiatives and collaborations we've embarked on this year are not just about immediate benefits; they're about laying the foundation for a future where the Port of Nanaimo stands as a beacon of innovation and economic vitality. We are excited about the journey ahead and are committed to keeping our stakeholders informed and engaged every step of the way.



CRUISE SHIPS ARE BACK IN NANAIMO!



Global Outreach and Strategic Partnerships

The recent participation of Andrea Thomas, Manager of Engagement, Content & Cruise Development, and Jason Michell, Vice President of Business Development, at the Seatrade Global Cruise Conference in Miami, signifies an important moment for the Port of Nanaimo's cruise business expansion. This conference, which was held from April 8-11, 2024, is the world's largest cruise industry gathering, offering essential networking, learning, and partnership opportunities. Their attendance is a strategic move to position our port as a key player in the global cruise market, aiming to enhance its reputation, increase cruise traffic, and boost revenue opportunities. By tapping into the latest industry trends and forging new connections, Andrea and Jason are setting the stage for significant growth and development at the port, which will, in turn, have a positive impact on the local economy and community.



ANDREA THOMAS (LEFT), JASON MICHELL (RIGHT)

In tandem with this strategic initiative, the Port of Nanaimo has partnered with Tourism Nanaimo and Wilsons Transportation to improve the hospitality and transportation services for cruise passengers. This collaboration is set to enrich the visitor experience, with volunteer Ambassadors from Tourism Nanaimo at the forefront, ready to assist and showcase the best of our city. The enhanced service and welcoming atmosphere aim not only to delight the passengers but also to drive economic benefits for the region. As more cruise visitors explore our city, they will bring vitality and support to the mid-island communities and local businesses, impacting various sectors such as retail, dining, entertainment, and cultural attractions. This initiative positions Nanaimo as an attractive cruise destination, promising broader economic advantages for our community.



SAY HULLO TO THE NEW KID ON THE DOCK!

We are delighted to share the success story of the new Hullo Ferry Service, a venture that has not only exceeded expectations but also redefined coastal transportation. Launched with a vision to enhance connectivity and provide an exceptional travel experience, the Hullo Ferry Service has quickly become a cornerstone of our local maritime infrastructure.

Since its inauguration in the summer of 2023, the Hullo Ferry has captivated both locals and tourists alike. Offering a blend of speed, comfort, and reliability, the service has significantly reduced travel times between Nanaimo and Vancouver. The ferry's panoramic windows, spacious seating, and onboard amenities have set a new standard in foot passenger ferry travel, ensuring a pleasant journey for every passenger.

Hullo has already been transporting passengers to and from downtown Vancouver for 8 months and is operating up to 14 daily sailings! The new company already has a crew of 95 and has sold about 250,000 tickets to date! Hullo Ferry's success is a reflection of our collective efforts and commitment to innovation and excellence. It embodies the spirit of Nanaimo - forward-looking, community-focused, and dedicated to providing the best experiences for residents and visitors alike. As we look to the future, we are excited about the potential of this service to further integrate our regional transportation network and support the sustainable development of our community.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported Hullo. Your enthusiasm and feedback have been instrumental in its success.



BC VEHICLE PROCESSING CENTRE – CARS, CARS AND MORE CARS!



The BC Vehicle Processing Centre (BCVPC), at the Port of Nanaimo, has demonstrated remarkable growth and operational excellence recently. As we look back at the trajectory of the BCVPC, the centre has not only expanded its footprint but has also significantly enhanced its capacity and efficiency, setting a new standard in the vehicle processing industry.

In the past year, the BCVPC has seen a substantial increase in the volume of vehicles processed, illustrating the centre's growing importance in the global automotive distribution network. The BCVPC's success is reflected in the expanding range of services offered. From pre-delivery inspections and accessory installations to custom modifications and detailed quality checks, the centre has evolved into a full-service facility that caters to a diverse array of client needs. This evolution has not only attracted new business but has also strengthened relationships with existing clients, who value the comprehensive suite of services provided under one roof.

Looking ahead, the future of the BC Vehicle Processing Centre shines bright. The success of the BCVPC is a clear indicator of the Port's potential as a pivotal player in the international trade and logistics landscape, and we are excited to forge ahead, building on our achievements and exploring new opportunities for innovation and excellence.

“IS THAT A CRUISE SHIP? NO! ITS A FLOATEL.....”

The arrival of the MV Isabelle, a luxury floatel with 652 cabins, in Nanaimo's waters has generated considerable local interest, marking a unique phase in the port's activities. This floatel, anchored off the coast between Gabriola and Protection Islands, is in the region to provide accommodations for the workforce involved in the Woodfibre LNG project near Squamish, set to commence in spring 2024 ([Nanaimo News](#)) ([CHEK](#)).

The MV Isabelle's presence aligns with the Nanaimo Port Authority's efforts to rejuvenate its cruise sector, which has been slow since the pandemic. Although the floatel is not a cruise ship, its size and appearance have sparked curiosity and excitement among residents, reminiscent of the cruise ships that used to frequent the port. The Port Authority is leveraging this interest to highlight the upcoming cruise seasons, with bookings already in place for 2024 and 2025 ([CHEK](#)).

The choice of the MV Isabelle by Bridgemans Services Group, commissioned by Woodfibre LNG, underscores a commitment to sustainability and minimal local impact. The floatel is equipped with advanced environmental systems and provides a comprehensive live-work space for over 600 workers, emphasizing a blend of convenience, safety, and minimal environmental footprint ([Inside RGE](#)).

As the floatel is set to be moored off the coast until April, it provides a unique backdrop to the port's scenery and activities, offering a glimpse into the innovative solutions being employed to support significant industrial projects while maintaining a focus on community and environmental concerns. The community's engagement and interest in the floatel signify a broader anticipation for the port's evolving role in supporting both industrial and tourism sectors.



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF MIKE DAVIDSON
MARCH 27, 1960 – JANUARY 17, 2024**

