

Ship Repair & Defence



Our Naval Economy

Ship Repair and Defence are Esquimalt's largest economic players. Within Esquimalt's municipal boundaries are: the Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Esquimalt, Esquimalt Graving Dock and the Industrial Marine Training and Applied Research Center (IMTARC).

CFB Esquimalt is home to the Canadian Pacific Naval Fleet. First established as a military installation by the Royal Navy in 1855, CFB Esquimalt has been serving the Canadian Navy from its inception in 1910. The base is responsible for providing support services to all ships and personnel of both Maritime Forces Pacific and Joint Task Force Pacific.¹

The Esquimalt Graving Dock is federally owned and operated by Public Works and Government Services Canada. Esquimalt Graving Dock is now the largest non-military site for ship repair and fitting on the west coast of North America and has the capacity to service 90% of the world's ships. All work is carried out by private sector ship repair and fitting companies.

IMTARC is a 4,000-square-foot training facility whose purpose is to provide workforce development and applied research that contributes to the competitiveness and productivity of BC's shipbuilding and repair industry.² The construction and outfitting of IMTARC was funded by the federal department

Definitions

Ship Repair and Fitting means the use of design and mechanical means to either restore or enhance the integrity of a ship including regular maintenance and the installation of ship systems.

Defence means the use of force and training to use force by members of the Canadian Armed Forces to protect the sovereignty of Canada against unauthorized intrusions into Canadian territory or insurgency within Canadian territory and also includes all private commercial enterprises that support the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces.

of Western Economic Diversification and by industry including Seaspan Shipyards, BC Ferries, Babcock Canada, Lockheed Martin Canada and Thales Canada. While the initial efforts to create IMTARC date back to 2008, the Centre's construction did not begin until August 2013 and is now in full operation.³

Key Facts

- CFB Esquimalt and Maritime Forces Pacific contribute over half a billion dollars annually to the local economy.⁴

- In 2011, defence services were ranked the second largest employment industry in Greater Victoria with 6,445 employed or 3.6% of all employment.⁵

- Seaspan is currently undertaking the Frigate Equipment Life Extension project at the Graving Dock. The program involves the mid-life refit of 12 Royal Canadian Navy multi-role patrol frigates originally built in the 1990s. The planned modernization includes a new command and control system, new radar capability, a new electronic warfare system and upgraded communications and missiles.⁶

- Seaspan has been awarded the non-combat vessel portion of the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy. The ships will be built in North Vancouver and fitted at the Esquimalt Graving Dock. The contract worth is \$2 billion in Esquimalt.

- Babcock Canada is the project manager for the Victoria In-Service Support Contract (VISSC) project for Canada's submarine fleet. Babcock has recently opened a facility in Esquimalt's industrial park. They employ approximately 170 people locally.

- Although not based in Esquimalt, the German company, Atlas Elektronik is active in the Victoria Class Submarine program and is actively pursuing other initiatives in support of Esquimalt's economy.

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This is one in a series of eight backgrounder documents available for public review as part of Esquimalt's Economic Development Strategy. To provide your input, please visit our website to review information and take our online survey.

Round Table Recommendations

The Esquimalt Round Table on Ship Repair & Defence identified the following as priority areas for action.

1. Promote Esquimalt

- Develop recruitment strategy for physicians
- Promote Esquimalt as “best place to live and work”
- Consider sister-city relationship with Asia Pacific

2. Collaborate with CFB Esquimalt

- Gather Industry/CFB Esquimalt input on OCP Update
- Discuss “best use” of Work Point lands with Base Commander
- Establish a first point of contact between Township and CFB Esquimalt

3. Improve Community Relations

- Develop a communication plan and highlight benefit of ship repair/fitting industry to residents/businesses
- Promote “good news stories” of environmental actions being completed by industry and CFB Esquimalt
- Organize shipbuilding industry awareness week event
- Develop an integrated transportation strategy
- Research how North Vancouver has resolved traffic and transportation issues
- Use social media channels to create stronger link between Seaspan and community
- Improve partnerships between industry, community and the Chamber
- Host Graving Dock Open House

4. Township Advocate for Ship Repair and Fitting Industry

- Advocate for shipbuilding industry as much as possible
- Support a lengthy in-stream maintenance support contract for Seaspan
- Support IMTARC as much as possible
- Take leadership role in facilitating regional coordination
- Create briefing binder for politicians on ship repair and fitting industry with easy messaging
- Educate regional MPs and MLAs on importance of ship repair and fitting industry
- Invite MPs and MLAs to information sessions on ship repair and fitting industry

- Advocate for “shipbuilding and repair” to be its own category in provincial labour reports
- Have the municipal council presence at all industry announcements
- Investigate opportunity for new business on First Nations land
- Advocate for more direct flights to Victoria Airport

5. Cater to the Needs of Ship Repair and Fitting Industry

- Host workshop to plan for the future needs of industry
- Investigate what infrastructure is needed for industry
- Develop child care strategy catering to industry workers
- Find a large warehouse space for the Victoria Class submarine in Esquimalt
- Develop a secure industrial park facility catering to needs of ship repair and fitting industry
- Move forward rezoning of the industrial park
- Communicate needs of industry to industrial land owners
- Host workshop to introduce industry to industrial land-owners
- Consult with planners/industry in Halifax/Dartmouth
- Upgrade Graving Dock facilities against tsunami

6. Promote Careers in Ship Repair and Fitting

- Get message out to university graduates
- Host a Trades Awareness Day
- Provide messaging on career opportunities on the Community Channel
- Coordinate economic development strategy with shipbuilding workforce strategy
- Provide link from Township website and social media channels to “Workforce Strategy”
- Promote research and innovation by collaborating with the University of Victoria

Sources

- ¹ Royal Canadian Navy (2014). MARPAC Base & Units - Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt.
- ² Industrial Marine Training and Applied Research Center (2014). About IMTARC.
- ³ Industrial Marine Training and Applied Research Center (IMTARC 2014). About IMTARC.
- ⁴ Royal Canadian Navy (2014). MARPAC Base & Units - Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt.
- ⁵ Victoria Foundation (2014). Victoria's Vital Signs: Greater Victoria's 2013 Annual Check-up.
- ⁶ Canada (2013). Halifax-class Modernization / Frigate Life Extension.

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