



## Victoria Celebrates Navy Centennial with *Freedom of the City Parade* and Statue Unveiling

Date: Monday, May 3, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Tomorrow, the Canadian Navy is celebrating 100 years of service to Canada with two events downtown - the *Freedom of the City Parade* and the *Unveiling of the Homecoming Statue*.

The *Freedom of the City Parade*, which takes place from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., replicates a 400 year old ceremony that demonstrates the good relations between the City of Victoria and the military. The Maritime Forces Pacific was previously granted Freedom of the City by Victoria in 1985, the Navy's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

At noon, the Naden Band of Maritime Forces Pacific and the Guard of Honour will unveil the *Homecoming Statue*, located at Wharf Street between Humboldt and Government Streets. It represents the special moment in the life of any sailor when they return from the sea to once again meet their family. Inspired by public gratitude for the service of Canada's sailors, the *Homecoming Statue* is a gift from the community.

### **PARADE ROUTE AND ROAD CLOSURES:**

Over 2,500 Marine Forces Pacific members will participate in the *Freedom of the City Parade*, which will start at 9:30 a.m. on the corner of Pembroke and Store Streets. The formation will march along Pembroke, turn right onto Douglas Street and march to City Hall. There, Chief Constable Jamie Graham will challenge the parade's advance and will invite the Commander Maritime Forces Pacific into City Hall.

Mayor Dean Fortin will inspect the Guard of Honour and will read a welcome proclamation in a short ceremony. Chief Graham will then allow the parade to continue down Douglas Street. The parade will turn right onto Belleville Street, and return along Government Street and disperse near City Hall at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Intersections and roads will be closed by a "rolling" police road block as the formation progresses along the parade route. Once the parade passes a specific location, roads will be reopened. Sidewalks will remain open at all times. Government Street, between Belleville and Fisgard Streets will be closed to delivery service from 10 am. to noon.

**HOMECOMING STATUE UNVEILING:**

Wharf Street between Humboldt and Government Streets will be closed from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the unveiling and dedication of the Homecoming Statue at noon.

For a complete list of road closures downtown tomorrow morning, visit: [www.victoria.ca](http://www.victoria.ca) and click on *What's New?*

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**For More Information:**

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