



News, A16-17 **HOW MOUNTIES PULLED OFF CANADA'S BIGGEST HEROIN BUST**

WEATHER: Rain, D48

\$1.49

Coin box: \$1.50  
Outside Lower Mainland:  
\$1.87 minimum

SUNDAY **Province** Sports Final

Vancouver, B.C. • January 18, 2004

**I WANT TO BE FAMOUS TOO, SAY STARS' SISTERS**

Beyoncé Knowles, Britney Spears and others have siblings who want their own slice of fame

Entertainment, B1-3



# Ports want Ottawa to pony up \$100m

OTTAWA — A coalition of Canadian port operators and shipping companies says it needs a \$100-million grant from Ottawa to meet Canada's post-9/11 commitments to beef up security.

The newly formed Canadian Coalition for Maritime Security is lobbying Transport Canada for the money, arguing that without it, it will not be able to meet the July 1, 2004, deadline to implement new international standards, dealing with items such as fences, cargo inspections and security guards.

"We feel in order for the government to protect the competitiveness of our port industries, they have to make this investment, just as the United States has done," said coalition spokesman Onkar Athwal.

Athwal said the U.S. has already handed out three waves of grants for its maritime industry totalling \$679 million.

Without a grant, the coal-

ition predicts ships will bypass ports such as Halifax and Vancouver in favour of U.S. ports that are in compliance with the new international regulations.



**KENNY**

Liberal Senator Colin Kenny, who chairs the Senate national security committee which found major vulnerabilities at Canadian ports, said that while he was initially suspicious of the request, the gov-

ernment should take a closer look at the U.S. subsidies to see if Canadian ports are at a major disadvantage.

Kenny pointed out that when the government privatized its ports several years ago, the new entities did away with the port police that were in place.

Asked why taxpayers should be on the hook for the security upgrades, Athwal said: "It is not part of normal business expense. This is something that is mandated by government that has to be done."

— CanWest News Service