

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Maritime Employers Support Strong Communities, Healthy Lifestyles**  
*“Champion” gift provides major lift to Coquitlam’s Bettie Allard YMCA project*

**COQUITLAM, B.C.** — The B.C. Maritime Employers Association is proud to make a major contribution to Coquitlam’s Bettie Allard YMCA project, which will help keep children, teens, adults and seniors healthy, connected and engaged for generations.

The BCMEA will contribute \$50,000 to the innovative project which will provide safe, inviting and accessible community gathering spaces where everyone can come together to connect and grow.

“This is about strengthening the communities where our waterfront workers live,” says BCMEA President and CEO Mike Leonard. “From swimming and fitness to mental wellness groups, the Bettie Allard YMCA will be an invaluable asset to the people of Coquitlam and beyond.”

The new facility, which is to open in the fall of 2022, will be a modern, 55,000-square-foot facility that will be visited more than a million times a year by Greater Vancouver residents of all ages. The Bettie Allard YMCA will include active living facilities such as fitness studios, gymnasium, strength training facilities, swimming pool, aquatics programming and family-friendly program space.

“This is a Champion-level contribution that will make a meaningful difference to residents in Greater Vancouver and particularly those in the Tri-Cities area,” says What Really Matters Coquitlam Chair Tracy Price. “We are sincerely grateful to British Columbia’s maritime employers who are investing in this region’s greatest asset – our people.”

Recently, the YMCA of Greater Vancouver held a “One Year Out” naming ceremony, kicking off the What Really Matters Now Capital Campaign. The campaign aims to raise \$25 million, with YMCA already at 85 percent of their goal. If you are interested in helping this project across the finish line - donate to help the Y serve the Tri-Cities area at [whatreallymatters.ymca.ca/donate](http://whatreallymatters.ymca.ca/donate).

Bettie Allard was an educator and community builder in the Burnaby area and beyond who passed away in 2004. She is the first woman to have a YMCA health and fitness facility solely named in her honour.

**About the BC Maritime Employers Association**

The British Columbia Maritime Employers Association represents approximately 49 waterfront employers and, by extension, the more than 9,400 men and women who

work for them. Our customer- members are ship owners and agents, stevedores, container and cruise ship terminal operators. We help optimize our members' operations by providing our expertise in labour relations, human resources, safety, training, and recruiting. BCMEA member companies are a vital part of the BC economy and a mainstay of the coastal community. Operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, our partners move \$180 Billion of cargo annually.

### **About the YMCA of Greater Vancouver**

The YMCA is a powerful association of people of all ages and abilities joined together by a shared commitment: to strengthen community. We accomplish this goal by helping vulnerable children and families, promoting healthy living and reducing isolation. Each year, the YMCA helps 120,000+ children, youth, adults, families and seniors overcome challenges and become stronger through life-enhancing programs and services. The YMCA of Greater Vancouver has been serving the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley and Sunshine Coast for 130+ years.

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