



# MEDIA ADVISORY

MA-20.001

January 16, 2020

## MAPLE RIDGE SEA CADETS PARTICIPATE IN SUPPLY SHIP KEEL LAYING CEREMONY

**North Vancouver, BC** – The Maple Ridge Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps RCSCC INVINCIBLE took part in the Keel Laying Ceremony for the first Joint Support Ship being built for the Royal Canadian Navy at Seaspan’s Vancouver Shipyard in North Vancouver, BC. The event was held the morning of January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

The vessel is the future HMCS Protecteur, which is scheduled for delivery to the Navy in 2023, and will be the largest naval ship ever built in Canada.

Cadets from RCSCC INVINCIBLE were on the stage in front of a hull segment of the new ship during the ceremony, during which a commemorative coin was laid in the ship’s keel. The coin will be sealed into the hull of the ship, where it will remain for the duration of the ship's time in service. The laying of a coin on the ship's keel is said to bring good luck to the shipbuilders and the future crews of the ship.

Dignitaries included the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and MP for North Vancouver; Vice-Admiral Art McDonald, Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy; and Mark Lamarre, Chief Executive Officer, Seaspan Shipyards.

Cadets from RCSCC INVINCIBLE got to meet and chat with Vice Admiral McDonald, as well as the Navy Command Chief, Chief Petty Officer First Class David Steeves. Chief Steeves shared that he was a Sea Cadet in his youth, which he told the Cadets led to his rewarding career in the Navy.

The Vice Admiral, Minister Wilkinson and Seaspan dignitaries also mentioned the Cadets on stage, pointing out that they are the future of our country, and reminded them of future careers available to them in the Navy and in the shipbuilding industry. It was observed that in a couple of years, young men and women like them will be sailing the HMCS Protecteur or helping to build the next navy ship at Seaspan.

Following the Keel Laying Ceremony, the Cadets also participated in a small ceremony in the Seaspan office, where Vice Admiral McDonald performed a ceremonial ribbon cutting for a new operations office area.

RCSCC INVINCIBLE’s Commanding Officer, Lieutenant (Navy) Ron Juliusson, said “What a great opportunity this was for INVINCIBLE Cadets to participate in this amazing event. I have been with the Canadian Cadet Organization for 45 years, and this was a first even for me. It was a truly memorable moment.”

The Royal Canadian Sea Cadets are a national youth program sponsored by the Canadian Armed Forces in partnership with the Navy League of Canada. RCSCC INVINCIBLE meets on Wednesday

evenings at Maple Ridge Royal Canadian Legion, from September to June. Optional training activities are held on other evenings and weekends throughout the year. Selected Cadets can also participate in summer training activities at Cadet Summer Training Centers across the country. There are also opportunities to attend international exchanges, sail on tall ship cruises or on Royal Canadian Navy or Canadian Coast Guard ship deployments, as well as provincial and national competitions for sailing, marksmanship, music, drill, first aid and more.

More information about Sea Cadets in Maple Ridge can be found at [www.354invincible.com](http://www.354invincible.com), or by telephone at (604) 219-8049.

– 30 –

For more information about this Media Advisory:

Lt(N) Kevin Deck  
Tel: 604-910-1856 (*do not publish*)  
Email: Kevin.Deck@cadets.gc.ca

Photos Available at: <http://354invincible.com/wp-content/uploads/Photos-for-MA-20.001-Seaspan.zip>

Photo Captions:

**IMG\_4871:** Vice Admiral McDonald fist bumps with Cadet Petty Officer Second Class Michael Bray as he meets the Cadets from RCSCC INVINCIBLE. Navy Chief Petty Officer First Class David Steeves can be seen making his way down the line shaking hands with Cadets.

**IMG\_4833:** RCSCC INVINCIBLE Cadets standing on stage in front of the hull section of the future HMCS Protecteur, while dignitaries speak to the assembled Seaspan employees and guests.

**IMG\_4890:** RCSCC INVINCIBLE Cadets standing on stage in front of the hull section of the future HMCS Protecteur, while dignitaries speak to the assembled Seaspan employees and guests.

**IMG\_4910:** The commemorative coin lays on the ship's keel. A cap will be welded over top, sealing the coin into the hull, where it will remain for the duration of the ship's time in service.

**IMG\_4917:** Cadets had an opportunity to pose for a photo with the commemorative coin, which can be seen laying on the ship's keel behind them. Pictured are Cadet Petty Officer Second Class Logan Murry-Bunte and Cadet Leading Seaman Lily Khorasani.

**IMG\_4932:** Vice Admiral McDonald cuts the ribbon to open a new operations office area in the Seaspan office.

**IMG\_4936:** Vice Admiral McDonald chats with Cadet Petty Officer First Class Mark Iversen.