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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development

### **\$565 MILLION PROJECT GETS GREEN LIGHT**

VICTORIA – A \$565-million project to improve and expand the existing Vancouver Convention Centre at Canada Place has been granted an Environmental Assessment Certificate under the B.C. Environmental Assessment Act.

Vancouver Convention Centre Expansion Project Ltd., is responsible for the design, construction and commissioning of the project. The project has also been reviewed under the Canada Environmental Assessment Act.

“The Vancouver Convention Centre plays host to thousands of visitors each year, providing economic benefits to the entire province,” said Minister of Small Business and Economic Development John Les. “The convention centre expansion will play a pivotal role during the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games and will attract major convention business for years to come, generating many economic and employment opportunities for British Columbians.”

The project will accommodate the needs of larger national and international trade shows and conference events, adding about 34,000 square metres of function space to the existing convention facility. The new building extends over the shoreline and is located to the west of the Canada Place cruise ship berth. The new facility completes the shoreline improvements along Coal Harbour. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall and be completed by the summer of 2008. The expansion will also allow future development by third parties of waterfront facilities, including a float plane base and marina.

The environmental assessment reviewed the project’s potential impacts on fish habitat and water quality, noise, transportation and traffic, and the neighbouring community. Impact management and mitigation strategies, including the environmental management plan committed to by the proponent, will ensure that the project will not have residual adverse environmental, economic, social, heritage or health effects.

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The decision was made by the ministers of Water, Land and Air Protection; Sustainable Resource Management; and Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services following referral from the Environmental Assessment Office.

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The environmental assessment report, environmental assessment certificate, the EAO's recommendations and reasons for recommendations are posted on the EAO website at [www.eao.gov.bc.ca/](http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/) online.

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