



ROYAL CANADIAN MARINE  
SEARCH & RESCUE

Nanaimo Marine Rescue Society  
PO Box 146, Stn. A  
Nanaimo, B.C.  
V9R 5K9

July 8, 2025

**DELIVERED BY HAND**

Vanessa Craig, Board Chair  
Regional District of Nanaimo  
6300 Hammond Bay Road  
Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6N2

Dear Chair Craig and Board Members:

Thank you for receiving our delegation on March 25, 2025, to provide an overview of the activities for the Nanaimo Marine Rescue Society (NMRS) and the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR) Station 27. The Nanaimo Marine Rescue Society (NMRS) is responsible for the governance and management of RCMSAR Station 27. The NMRS has a Board of Directors that meets regularly to provide administrative support, project management, budget oversight, health and safety policies and community engagement activities for our rescue vessels and boathouse.

The mission of the NMRS and Station 27 is straightforward: ***"We save lives on the water"*** by providing first responder emergency services to the mid-Island boating community in and around the Nanaimo area including First Nations communities, the general public and the marine industry at large that delivers essential supplies and services to Vancouver Island. Station 27 has well trained and dedicated first responders that are all volunteers who dedicate hundreds of hours to classroom training and on-water training. We train continuously to maintain and improve our marine skills including first aid to effectively respond to on the water emergencies.

The NMRS also supports community events such as Nanaimo's Bathtub Race, Silly Boats and the Dragon Boat festival and others by providing safety related land and water services to ensure the security of participants. The NMRS provides a Boat Safety Program that includes the active promotion of water safety at these events, boat safety inspections at mid-Island marinas and the provision of the *"Kids Don't Float"* program at 8 marinas by providing PFDs for youth. These are important community programs that are managed and maintained by our volunteer base that the boating community relies on each year.

In short, we are seen to be a **highly reliable and well-trained volunteer rescue organization** that provides an essential marine safety net for the Nanaimo area and other mid-Island communities. Station 27 has been part of the boating community since the early 1990s. Since the inception of Station 27 operations there has been 1133 total missions with an average response time of 14.85 minutes assisting 964 mariners with a total approximate value of marine assets of \$ 30.8 million (from RCMSAR official statistics). In 2024 there were 20 missions with an average response time of 14.20 minutes with marine assets of approximately \$ 105 k. To date in 2025, there has been 24 missions with an average response time of 15.30 minutes with marine assets worth approximately \$ 1.5 million.



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The Regional District of Nanaimo has been a long-term financial supporter which has been incredibly important for the continued success of our volunteer organization. We are hoping to renew our agreement between the Regional District of Nanaimo and the NMRS which is ending this calendar year.

As you will recall, in 2017 the Regional District of Nanaimo kindly authorized an initial grant of \$17,500/annum which was increased in 2021 to \$ 22,500/annum. Over this time-period our operational budget has increased from an average of approximately \$100,000/annum to over \$150,000 in 2025. These costs are solely related to operating costs such as crew training, fuel, vessel and boathouse maintenance, crew gear and medical supplies. There are no labour costs – our operations are 100% volunteer provided. The NMRS has also had major refit projects for both vessels, most recently for the purchase and installation of new engines for the Meynell Vessel that was over \$ 58,000. In addition, in 2023, the McGregor Vessel required a total refit which was required by RCMSAR policies that cost the NMRS approximately \$ 400,000. The funds for the McGregor Refit Project were raised by our volunteers over 10 years to ensure that this vessel would be able to stay in service.

We are requesting an increase from \$22,500 to \$33,000 per annum for a new 5-year agreement which would represent support at roughly the historical level of 22% of operating costs. Our Society raises the balance of funding through other fundraising efforts.

We are pleased to respond to any questions the RDN may have, and we hope the Board will see fit to support our continuing ability to provide round-the-clock lifesaving on local waters.

Yours truly,

Stephen Morison

President,

Nanaimo Marine Rescue Society

Paul Mottershead

Station Leader, Station 27

cc: Erica Beauchamp, Manager, Emergency Services  
Finance Department