

NEWS RELEASE

Company Wins Best Employer Award

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Washington Marine Group of Companies is proud to announce its selection as Best Employer at the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards last night.

In its eighth year, the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards are intended to publicly recognize local area businesses that demonstrate a continued passion for excellence and to promote the advancement of responsible business leadership and harmony within the community. Companies who win these



awards are a positive role model for business, show vision and the courage to take risks and be a catalyst for change, and demonstrate their leadership skills within the business community or the community at large. Once nominated, there is a third party scoring process to determine the winner.

Specifically, the Best Employer Award, is given to an employer, nominated by its employees, who exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit through fairness, support, leadership and a commitment to the professional development of their staff. Other important factors are a commitment to leadership and development of the employees within the company, employee benefits (fitness facilities, daycare, cafeteria/lunch room, health/dental plans), and a commitment to the empowerment of all employees through communication, support and encouragement of individuals.

“We are very proud of this achievement and I am honoured that our employees nominated us for this award,” said **Steve Frasher**, Chief Executive Officer. “Our company strives to

improve all areas of business, but has put an especially strong emphasis on safety and employee lifestyles in the last couple of years. Being the recipient of the Best Employer Award is a great recognition of those efforts and we are committed to continuing to improve all aspects of the company as a whole. I offer my congratulations to all other 2005 Business Excellence Award finalists and recipients.”

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The Washington Marine Group of Companies are primarily involved in coastal and deepsea transportation, ship repair and shipbuilding. The group is composed of Manly Marine, Marine Petrobulk, McKay Creek Technologies, Norsk Pacific Steamship, Seaspan Coastal Intermodal, Seaspan International, Seaspan Ship Management, Seaspan Shipbrokers, Seaspan (Cyprus), Vancouver Drydock, Vancouver Shipyards and Victoria Shipyards. For further information about the Washington Marine Group please visit the website at www.washingtonmarinegroup.com.