

## WHY SUBMARINES

Canada, as a sovereign nation must know and control what is happening in the air, on the surface and under the sea of her ocean approaches.

Deterrence and reaction are fundamental to enforcing sovereignty; no other Canadian military platform has the strategic deterrent capability of our VICTORIA Class submarines.

Threats to our sovereignty include not only national security threats but also broader threats such as drug importation, illegal over-fishing and illegal immigration.

Submarines are unseen; their covert nature, 24-hour, all weather, operational availability are applicable in war as well as in domestic operations.

Wherever the RCN deploys there are hostile or unfriendly submarines. To be an effective deployable, combat-capable navy, Canada requires submarines to both train her surface ships and deploy into areas of conflict.

Deployed submarines provide early warning, surveillance, intelligence, and pose an unseen deterrent threat. They can be offensive and defensive at the same time, as well as, support Special Forces.

### What is the Problem?

Submarines are very complex. Operating below the surface, at depth, is dangerous. Safety and technical standards are extremely high.

Pundits and naysayers have not understood nor taken the time to understand the complexity and the demands of operating and maintaining complex submarines.

Converting, maintaining and sustaining these complex submarines has been a learning challenge for our Navy and our industry as they have essentially moved from supporting a relatively simple World War II submarine to a modern and complex, high tech submarine.

The submarines were not in as good a condition when acquired as was initially believed nor was Canada fully ready to build the quality processes to support such a modern submarine.

Given the complexity inherent in returning the submarines into full service here in Canada, it was not surprising the job took longer, and was more complex, than expected.

### Why Is Now a Time for Optimism?

The RCN and Canadian industry have overcome their steep technical learning curve.

In 2008 the Government signed a long term In-Service Support Contract with Babcock Canada partnered with Victoria Shipyards. Industry can now bring its evolving expertise to bear as a full partner in sustaining this unique strategic capability.

Both Naval Dockyards now have experience maintaining these submarines and Canadian industry is quickly becoming world class in conducting the longer term complex docking and maintenance periods.

As both the Navy and industry grow in confidence the VICTORIA Class will be a true Canadian success.

Throughout the introduction of VICTORIA Class the Navy has been able to train and maintain a highly professional cadre of operational submariners.

Vice Admiral Paul Maddison, the Commander of the RCN, recently wrote to the Ottawa Citizen; "VICTORIA and WINDSOR will be certified next year and CHICOUTIMI the year after. From 2013 forward, Canada will have a submarine available for operations both east and west, with a third boat able to deploy where the government so chooses."