

JANUARY 1980

Premier Bennett announces the BC Place concept, the 60,000-seat stadium, and support for Transpo, the "trigger for development," on January 29. No site is specifically confirmed for Transpo, but the use of False Creek site plans at announcement indicates prevailing preference. Final decision must be made in concert with BIE "pre-enquete" team. The Trade and Convention Centre on Pier BC is now targeted for December, 1982. Projected cost has risen to \$48 million. Though an earlier-commissioned City report opposes the False Creek site, City Council affirms endorsing and Mayor Volrich switches position to support False Creek. The first Transpo 86 committee is formed to prepare official bid to BIE. (Manning, Hillman, Cole, Ruppenthal, McNea, Hildebrand, Mayrs, Hilker, Vrlak, and Robinson, with Paul Manning as coordinator.) To assist them, Evan Wolfe, Hugh Curtis, and Jack Volrich in their preparations, Patrick Reid and Lawrie Wallace arrive from London. While Premier Bennett suggests full expectation of 50/50 Federal cost-sharing, he postpones the issue until after the upcoming Federal election.

FEBRUARY 1980

Mike Burns is hired as general manager. Transpo begins staffing. Negotiations are underway for acquisition of the CPR/Marathon False Creek acreage with estimated \$75 million selling price. Mr. Trudeau defeats Mr. Clark but BC elects no Liberals. Finance minister reminds new Government that BC still expects Progressive-Conservative Federal commitment to be honoured.

MARCH 1980

Evan Wolfe, minister responsible, submits preliminary briefing to BIE. Briefing illustrates two sites: The west end of False Creek from the Granville Bridge to Pender Street and the Burrard Inlet waterfront from Pier BC to the CN Pier. The Federal Liberals reassume majority control. Premier Bennett asks Prime Minister Trudeau to commit to equal cost-sharing as per Expo 67 precedent.

Alvin Narod named CEO of BC Place. BC Place board, known as the "Action Committee for BC Place," listed Paul Manning; Alan Laird; Lucille Johnstone; Edgar Kaiser, Jr.; Bruce Howe; and Environment Minister Stephen Rogers, as Chairman of the Committee.