**News Release**

**BC-based Courtney Agencies celebrates 65 years of family-business success**

**December 21, 2020**

Courtney Agencies, a family-owned customs brokerage and freight forwarding company, was born on the shore of the Port of New Westminster in December 1955. Current owner and president, Paul Courtney, is the grandson of Laura Courtney and son of Richard “Dick” Courtney - the company’s founders.

Courtney Agencies’ first home was a shack on the New West docks, from which it served as Ship’s Agent and Customs Broker for the west coast port of entry. No shipping containers, no computers, not even an electric typewriter in those days.

Even deeper Courtney roots grew in the fertile soil of New West. Paul’s grandfather, J.A. ”Alex” Courtney was the manager of a successful shipping and storage business based here. He passed on his industry knowledge and interest to the next generations.

Alex may be familiar to some of the city’s long-time residents, as he served as an alderman for more than 30 years. In fact, Courtney Crescent was named for him.

If imports and exports were your business, the Port of New Westminster was where you wanted to be. The Fraser River has a long, rich history of moving logs and lumber, coal and other industrial products into and out of Canada.

“My grandmother worked in the business until she was well into her eighties,” said Paul. “And then my mother, Veronica “Ronnie” Courtney, brother Don, and I worked together until my mother retired at 60. I guess you could say, I wasn’t just raised in the business, I was kind of raised by the business. Whatever it is, I can’t imagine doing anything else.”

“Anniversaries for family-owned companies come with such a wonderful mix of nostalgia, anticipation, and gratitude to the people who made it so – people who you’ve known your whole life,” Paul added.

Courtney Agencies, now located closer to the Port of Vancouver, offers complete global solutions for all import and export needs. Services include customs brokerage, international freight forwarding, export to the US, e-commerce and tradeshow logistics.

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