

Royal British Columbia Museum Corporation

MANDATE

The Royal BC Museum (RBCM) brings British Columbia's stories together. Our collections, research and presentations enable us to tell the stories of B.C. in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. By exploring our human history and natural history, the Royal BC Museum advances new knowledge and understanding of B.C., and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection.



EXECUTIVE COMMITMENT TO MULTICULTURALISM

- » The RBCM strives to explain the human, natural and archival history of the province of B.C. and is the only institution in B.C. that assumes this role.
- » Continue to commit to diversity in the workplace through hiring practices that recognizes diversity for front line customer service staff and co-op students.

- » The RBCM presents controversial issues in an objective way, and is perceived by the community as a place that presents balanced views.
- » The RBCM Site is a centre of activity for locals, tourists, schoolchildren, First Nations and cultural groups and scholars.
- » The RBCM will continue to engage in the process of repatriating cultural material through First Nations and the Treaty Negotiations Office.
- » The RBCM First Nations collections date back to the late 1800's when they were originally collected to prevent loss of cultural heritage to other areas of North America and overseas.
- » The BC Archives is a valuable resource for researchers. It is one of the major information sources for B.C.'s human history and a vital element of B.C.'s culture.
- » Public programming reflects a diversity of interests, and the exhibits, collections and holdings provide opportunities for visitors to learn more about the many ethnic groups that make up British Columbia.

EMBRACING MULTICULTURALISM IN THE WORKPLACE

- » Staff within the RBCM speak the following languages: Arabic, Cantonese, Cebuano, Dutch, German, French, Japanese, Mandarin, Polish and Spanish. A document outlining who speaks which language is accessible by all staff and assists us being able to communicate with our international visitors.
- » The RBCM offers international internships to university students in various museum studies.
- » The RBCM partner with First Nation's to deliver a number of school programs.
- » The RBCM provides no-charge admission to all First Peoples.

HIGHLIGHTS OF INITIATIVES

- » The RBCM partnered with the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) to begin developing exhibitions and presentations about First Nations languages, arts and culture. Drawing from an extensive network of community-based language specialists and cultural experts throughout the Province, FPCC is developing the exhibition content and acting as a conduit to First Nations communities. The RBCM is responsible for organizational structure, management, design and construction of the exhibition. Through a process of collaboration, the RBCM and FPCC will open Our Living Languages, an exhibition about the 34 indigenous languages in B.C. — the most linguistically diverse region in Canada.
- » BC Bites and Beverages, an RBCM Public Program, hosted three experts on the native food movement in the First Peoples' Gallery for "Rich in Food: Revitalizing Traditional Food on the Northwest Coast."
- » Organized many events to commemorate Veteran's Week including seven days of free talks, activities and displays to honour those who have served and continue to serve. New this year was a special exhibit by the Chinese Canadian Military Museum, along with displays and talks from the Korean Veterans Association, and BC Aboriginal Veterans Association, demonstrating the diversity of Canadian Veterans.
- » The RBCM hosted a Swap Café interactive community dialogue to commemorate International Mother Language Day on Feb. 21, 2014, to raise awareness of the many First Nations languages and dialects that make up the rich tapestry of British Columbia.
- » The staffs of the RBCM speak, read and/or write English, French, German, Dutch, Spanish, Polish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Cebuano, Hindi and Arabic. This enables us to interact effectively with some of our visitors from around the World.
- » In March of 2014, the RBCM acquired a 19th century album that contains some of the earliest photographs taken of First Nations in B.C. The album of photographs and pictures features mementoes of the work and travels of Col. Richard Moody, a prominent figure in colonial B.C. Once the photographs have been conserved and described, the album will be available to researchers for viewing by appointment. Ultimately, the RBCM will scan all the images and make them available for viewing online. The album has taken its place as part of the unique story of B.C.
- » The RBCM continued with the family program titled "Wonder Sunday" designed for children and their parents, grandparents and/or guardians to enjoy the afternoon at the museum. The program includes opportunities for families to explore First Peoples' Life through storytelling, watching a drum-maker at work, finding out how pit-houses were built, sketching animal symbols and other activities.
- » Continue to create and install information kiosks throughout the galleries to allow visitors to read information about what they are seeing, in seven different languages (English, French, Spanish, German, Japanese, Chinese and Korean).
- » No Admission charge to First Nations visitors to the Royal BC Museum galleries.
- » The RBCM has approximately 500 volunteers who reflect the diversity of the community. Volunteers contribute over 42,000 hours of their time and are acknowledged for their length of volunteer service, up to 35 years. Volunteer positions offer an opportunity for practicing the language for those who have English as a second language.