

## RE: For your review: Return of Cultural Objects EP

Thursday, July 7, 2016  
10:31 AM

Subject	RE: For your review: Return of Cultural Objects EP
From	Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX
To	Mandybura, Cadence GCPE:EX
Cc	Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Rhodes, Gillian GCPE:EX; Bates Gibbs, Bonnie GCPE:EX; Watson, Andy GCPE:EX
Sent	Friday, June 3, 2016 2:03 PM

This looks good.

MARR staff do not have any knowledge of or suggestions for any alternate locations. All I found myself were the two possibilities below that would have to be discussed with the FNs before they are truly real possibilities. While they are not strong media options as they are in remote locations, you may want to put these two forward anyway just in case – the PO is doing tour planning right now and that may be why you have been asked for other locations. They are likely looking for a range of possibilities around the province.

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We have found only a few alternate venues though would have to have direct discussions with the nations to make sure these could work – and locations are remote.

Tsimshian territory: <http://ornamentum.ca/tsimshian-treasures-repatriation-and-questions-of-ownership/>. Check section on the Thomson family.

Haisla totem (near Kitimat): <http://www.ammsa.com/publications/ravens-eye/totem-poles-return-haisla>

**From:** Mandybura, Cadence GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, June 3, 2016 1:40 PM  
**To:** Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** For your review: Return of Cultural Objects EP  
**Importance:** High

Hi Lisa,

I hope you're well. See attached for the draft PREM EP for the return of cultural objects announcement on June 20.

We are aiming to get this to our MO by the end of the day, and so please review and get back to me **this afternoon if possible**. My apologies for the rush.

All my best,


Cadence

Cadence Mandybura  
Public Affairs Officer  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development  
Province of British Columbia  
Phone: 250 356-6305 (office); 250 893-8513 (cell)  
Email: [Cadence.Mandybura@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Cadence.Mandybura@gov.bc.ca)

## Event Planning: Return of Cultural Objects

Thursday, July 7, 2016

10:31 AM

Subject	<b>Event Planning: Return of Cultural Objects</b>
From	Rhodes, Gillian GCPE:EX
To	Brendeland, Deb GCPE:EX
Cc	Bates Gibbs, Bonnie GCPE:EX; Dick, Joan L CSCD:EX; Sandur, Parveen CSCD:EX; Mandybura, Cadence GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Chant, Jon GCPE:EX
Sent	Friday, June 10, 2016 3:51 PM
Attachments	 EP_PREM...

Hi Deb.

We've updated the event plan from earlier this week and have received further clarity from the DM/MO regarding the extent of this announcement so are working on comms materials for a June 21 announcement.

Location for the event has not been decided on, so far as I know. Has Anish been tasked with this?

Please call me if you have any questions, Gill

## Re: Photos: RBCM spaces

Thursday, July 7, 2016  
10:33 AM

Subject	Re: Photos: RBCM spaces
From	Lambertson, Erik RBCM:EX
To	Dwivedi, Anish GCPE:EX
Cc	Stenson, Erika RBCM:EX; Mandybura, Cadence GCPE:EX; Rhodes, Gillian GCPE:EX; Bates Gibbs, Bonnie GCPE:EX
Sent	Thursday, June 16, 2016 4:46 PM

Hi

With this timeframe, I make a strong recommendation for Totem Hall. The museum opens at 10:00 and we have to be cognizant of the flow and experience of our visitors.

The Our Living Languages exhibition is a wonderful space but holding this event there would pose many logistical challenges; Totem Hall is far better.

Thanks

Erik

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Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 16, 2016, at 4:40 PM, Dwivedi, Anish GCPE:EX <[Anish.Dwivedi@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Anish.Dwivedi@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Between 10 am and 11:30 a.m.

**From:** Stenson, Erika RBCM:EX

**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2016 4:33 PM

**To:** Mandybura, Cadence GCPE:EX

**Cc:** Dwivedi, Anish GCPE:EX; Lambertson, Erik RBCM:EX; Rhodes, Gillian GCPE:EX; Bates Gibbs, Bonnie GCPE:EX

**Subject:** Re: Photos: RBCM spaces

Do we have an event time yet?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 16, 2016, at 4:12 PM, Mandybura, Cadence GCPE:EX  
<[Cadence.Mandybura@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Cadence.Mandybura@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Anish,

I understand you're looking for some visuals to help choose a location at RBCM. I chatted with Erik Lambertson at RBCM, and due to the space and angles the Pit House is not an ideal backdrop for this type of event.

The top suggestion is the **totem gallery** – some images below. It is a little dark but Erik tells me that RBCM has held events here before with a small amount of additional lighting. (Erik, please jump in if I'm missing anything. ☺)

<image002.jpg> <image004.jpg> <image006.jpg>

Second choice would be a small amphitheatre in **the Living Languages** exhibit. NOTE: this is only possible if the event wraps up by 10am.

<image014.jpg> <image015.jpg>

Let me know if I can help further. Thanks,

Cadence

**Cadence Mandybura**

Public Affairs Officer

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Province of British Columbia

Phone: 250 356-6305 (office); 250 893-8513 (cell)

Email: [Cadence.Mandybura@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Cadence.Mandybura@gov.bc.ca)



## **Communications Approach: Cultural Reconciliation with Aboriginal Peoples in British Columbia**

*Last updated: June 30, 2016*

Many ancestral remains and belongings of cultural significance, originating from Aboriginal peoples in B.C., reside in museums and private collections both in North America and overseas. Many were acquired without the free and informed consent of their original custodians and often in violation of their traditions and customs.

Over recent years, there have been a number of examples of successful return of sacred, family and other types of belongings of cultural significance to Aboriginal peoples from museums in Canada and elsewhere. These examples have been largely pro-actively managed by Aboriginal peoples advocating for the return of remains and belongings.

With Canada's commitment to fully support the Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People in May 2016, and the acceptance by Canada and British Columbia of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, there is a strong catalyst to exploring the potential role of the return of ancestral remains and belongings as a means of restoring elements of community's history, assisting with reconciliation and supporting the healing of Aboriginal communities. There is also a sense that more needs to be done to assist participants in better understanding the significance of, and processes related to, the return of these materials.

### **PURPOSE**

To co-create a process and strategy with British Columbia's Aboriginal peoples to:

- 1) Increase the collective understanding of where displaced ancestral remains and belongings of cultural significance are located; and
- 2) Determine opportunities, through the leadership of the RBCM and ultimately within Aboriginal communities, to create sustained capacity for engagement between aboriginal communities and the holders of identified belongings, with an objective of exploring the return of these belongings to their original communities.

With these activities, we can work together to collectively support the objectives of advancing reconciliation and healing for Aboriginal peoples.

### **CONTEXT**

- B.C. has the most diverse First Nations and Aboriginal peoples' communities in Canada.
- B.C. recognizes the importance of culture as a critical component of reconciliation and as vitally important to the healing of communities across the province.
- There are believed to be many ancestral remains and belongings of cultural significance belonging to Aboriginal peoples in B.C. that are now located in other areas of the world.
- Based on examples from other jurisdictions, we understand there have been successful co-created projects to identify and return those priority belongings due to their cultural significance and immense historical value.

- B.C.'s Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM) is a leader in working collaboratively with Indigenous peoples on important cultural reconciliation initiatives, including for example, the award winning "Our Living Languages" exhibit.
- The RBCM has played a key role in the return of cultural belongings to Aboriginal communities as defined in treaty negotiations.

## **POTENTIAL DELIVERABLES**

National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2016 (complete):

- Premier Clark announced that the Royal BC Museum is working with Aboriginal peoples in B.C. to develop a plan and process around returning ancestral remains and belongings of cultural significance, and that the Province wholeheartedly supports this effort.
- Premier Clark also sent a letter regarding the return of ancestral remains and belongings of cultural significance to President Barack Obama.
- Event occurred at the Royal BC museum and attracted a good amount of media coverage.

Federal-Provincial-Territorial meeting on Culture and Heritage, July 4-6, 2016:



**Event Proposal – For PREM Consideration**  
**MINISTRY OF Community, Sport and Cultural Development**  
**June 7, 2016**

**Event Title: Return of Cultural Objects announcement**

<b>Date:</b> Tuesday, June 21, 2016 <b>Time:</b> 11:00 a.m. (TBC)	<b>Media Market:</b> Provincewide
<b>Location:</b> OPTION #1 (standalone event) Royal BC Museum 675 Belleville Street Victoria  OPTION #2 (third-party event) Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre 1607 East Hastings St. Vancouver  OPTION #3 (standalone event) Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre 1607 East Hastings St. Vancouver  OPTION #4 (standalone event) Stanley Park Vancouver	<b>English Media Spokesperson:</b> Premier Christy Clark (TBC)          <b>Multicultural Media Spokesperson:</b> Premier Christy Clark (TBC)
<b>Author/Ministry:</b> Community, Sport and Cultural Development	

## THE EVENT

### PROACTIVE EVENT OR INVITATION

- Led by GCPE-CSCD with support from GCPE-MARR and the Royal BC Museum (RBCM)
- Option #3 is a third-party event led by the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society.

### EVENT

- Premier Christy Clark will announce a commitment to work with First Nations to develop a plan and process around returning objects of cultural significance.
- This announcement will be made in collaboration with the First Nations leaders and RBCM.
- This event will feature a strong First Nations presence, potentially including a welcome, ceremony and/or performance.

#### OPTION #1 – Royal BC Museum, Victoria

- Standalone event held at the Royal BC Museum.

#### OPTION #2 – National Aboriginal Day at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre

- Precise speaking opportunity to be identified between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
- Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre will host a pancake breakfast at their offices in East Hastings Street to launch their National Aboriginal Day celebrations. The breakfast will start at 9:00 a.m. and in previous years has fed around 200 people.
- The breakfast will be catered, but there is an opportunity for Premier Christy Clark and/or Minister Rustad to participate in serving breakfast to the people gathered at the Friendship Centre.
- Following breakfast, Premier Christy Clark and/or Minister Rustad can join in a 'Friendship Walk' starting at the Friendship Centre and covering just over 3 km up Commercial Drive to Trout Lake. The walk will start at approximately 11:00 am.
- Festivities continue at Trout Lake (3360 Victoria Dr.) from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

#### OPTION #3 – Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre

- Standalone event held following the National Aboriginal Day Celebrations (11:00 a.m. or later).

#### OPTION #4 – Stanley Park, Victoria

- Standalone event held at the totem poles at Brockton Point

### GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FUNDING / PARTNER FUNDING (IF APPLICABLE):

- Not at this time; funding announcement to come at the All Chiefs meeting in September.



## WHO'S ORGANIZING?

- GCPE

## STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

- The goal is to help support First Nations with identifying and potentially bringing back to the province and their communities, cultural items to lineal descendants and culturally affiliated First Nations.
- This action will serve to recognize the histories of indigenous peoples in British Columbia and assist in advancing reconciliation and show commitment on the part of government to reach out to First Nations and aboriginal peoples, building healing relationships.
- B.C. recognizes the importance of cultural dynamics as a critical component of ongoing engagement with indigenous peoples at a community level. Relationships with First Nations and aboriginal groups in B.C. remain an important consideration within the provincial government.
- The RBCM has a solid track record in working with First Nations. Under the direction of Professor Jack Lohman, RBCM will support an international contingency consisting of First Nations leaders, including former LG Steven Point and repatriation experts to specific locations.
- This announcement is best made with a view to making this project an "aspiration." The tone needs to be very respectful, and mindful that First Nations should be the lead, using the expertise of the RBCM.
- This event will be held on National Aboriginal Day (June 21), which may provide opportunities to re-announce this project and increase its visibility.
- This project will extend into Canada's sesquicentennial celebrations in 2017. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's report includes a call to the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, and the Canadian Museums Association to mark Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> by establishing a dedicated national funding program for commemoration projects on the theme of reconciliation:
- Previously returned B.C. First Nations cultural objects include:
  - Ancestral remains returned to the Tseycum First Nation from the American Museum of Natural History in New York City (2008)
  - The G'psglox totem pole returned to the Haisla Nation from the Museum of Ethnography in Stockholm (2006)
  - A stone statue returned to the Sto:lo First Nation from the U.S. (2006)
  - A collection of Tsimshian artifacts returned to Canada from Britain (2006)
  - A ceremonial mask returned to the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation from the British Museum (2005)
  - Ancestral remains returned to the Haida from the Field Museum of Chicago (2003)

## VENUE DESCRIPTION

### OPTION #1: Royal BC Museum, Victoria

- The RBCM is a key stakeholder in this announcement.
- The museum's First Peoples Gallery, Living Languages Exhibit, and outdoor Thunderbird Park all feature First Nations artwork, artifacts or displays.

PROS: s.13

CONS:

### OPTION #2: National Aboriginal Day at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, Vancouver

- The Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society is celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> annual National Aboriginal Day on June 21 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at this location.

PROS: s.13

CONS:

### OPTION #3: Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, Vancouver

- A standalone event could occur at 11:00 a.m. or later following the National Aboriginal Day event.

PROS: s.13

CONS:



**OPTION #4: Stanley Park, Vancouver**

- Stanley Park provides a rich natural setting.
- Suggested location is Brockton Point, which features nine totem poles.

PROS: s.13

CONS:

**EVENT PARTICIPANTS (SPEAKERS)**

- Premier Christy Clark
- Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, Peter Fassbender (emcee)
- Professor Jack Lohman, RBCM
- Judge Steven Point, former Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia (TBC)
- Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, Reconciliation Canada (TBC)

**KEY VALIDATORS & STAKEHOLDERS**

- John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
- Chief Ellis Ross, Chief Councillor of the Haisla Nation (TBC)
- Shawn Atleo, former national chief of the Assembly of First Nations
- BC Assembly of First Nations
- First Nations Leadership Council
- First Peoples' Cultural Council
- BC Arts Council
- Royal BC Museum
- Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society

**TARGET AUDIENCE**

- First Nations community
- Arts, culture and heritage community

**VISUAL MESSAGE(S)**

**DESIRED PICTURE (STILL)**

- Premier Clark, Prof. Jack Lohman, and First Nations representatives in front of First Nations artwork or artifact.

**DESIRED PICTURE (VIDEO)**

- Premier Clark and other stakeholders witnessing First Nations ceremony or performance.

**ACTUAL SPEAKING BACKDROP**

- OPTION #1: The Royal BC Museum, Victoria





- OPTION #2 and #3: Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, Vancouver  
Speaking backdrop TBC

- OPTION #4: Stanley Park, Vancouver



## WRITTEN MESSAGE(S)

### DESIRED SOUNDBITE / KEY NEWS RELEASE SOUNDBITE

- The Province is working with First Nations to help them on the healing journey of seeking to return their cultural objects.

### KEY MESSAGES

- We support the goal of returning cultural objects to First Nations in B.C.
- This project is very much about partnership: we have the expertise of the RBCM but it the knowledge of the First Nations of B.C. who can truly guide us in this important work.
- This opportunity supports First Nations as they continue on their path of healing – we know this is part of a much bigger process.

## Key Messages – Return of Cultural Objects

June 20, 2016

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- There are believed to be many ancestral remains and belongings of cultural significance belonging to Aboriginal peoples in B.C. that are now located in other areas of the world.
- Based on examples from other jurisdictions, we understand there have been successful co-created projects to identify and return those priority belongings due to their cultural significance and immense historical value.
- The province of B.C. and the Royal BC Museum would like to explore this opportunity and begin the dialogue with Aboriginal peoples on an initiative like this.
- The Royal BC Museum will be reaching out to Aboriginal peoples to understand how best to create and evolve this important process.
- The Royal BC Museum, under the direction of Professor Jack Lohman, has a solid track record in working with Aboriginal peoples.
- In the coming months, the Royal BC Museum will be actively reaching out to Aboriginal peoples to determine how to support this important work.
- Today's announcement seeks a path forward in the recovery of ancestral remains and culturally significant priority belongings. More details will emerge as the conversation evolves.



- We are committed to doing everything we can to reunite Aboriginal peoples with their treasured cultural belongings – and bring them home.

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## Return of Ancestral Remains and Belongings of Cultural Significance

*Advice to the Premier*

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**Q1: What are you announcing today?**

- We are announcing that the Royal BC Museum is working with Aboriginal peoples in B.C. to develop a plan and process around returning ancestral remains and belongings of cultural significance.

**Q2: Whose idea was it?**

- Premier Christy Clark was aware of other jurisdictions engaging with Aboriginal peoples, such as New Zealand and Ontario. She asked that the Province move forward on this important work.
- The Royal B.C. Museum has had a long-standing track record in working with Aboriginal peoples in B.C. and highly values the work involved in engaging in reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Canadians.

**Q3: How are you ensuring this is not a political move?**

- This is something I want to be very clear about: this is not a political move.
- We are not leading on this issue in any political sense. We are instead providing much-needed support to Aboriginal peoples.
- We are acting in good faith to begin something of incredible importance and we're trusting the knowledge, wisdom and guidance of Aboriginal peoples and the Royal BC Museum.
- To say it is anything other than this is disrespectful of the intent behind this journey.

**Q4: Why are you announcing this now?**

- This project has deep cultural significance, going back through many generations of Aboriginal history.
- Building on the commitment of British Columbia to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, it's timely to begin this meaningful journey with Aboriginal peoples in B.C., and poignant to announce it on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Aboriginal Day.

**Q5: Why were Aboriginal peoples not consulted before this announcement?**

- We greatly value a meaningful and ongoing engagement process with Aboriginal peoples in B.C.
- Today we are announcing the beginning of the journey forward.



- The Royal BC Museum will be working closely with Aboriginal peoples on developing this initiative and looks forward to many conversations with Aboriginal peoples in the weeks and months to come.

**Q6: Why was the First Peoples' Cultural Council not consulted before this announcement?**

- The First Peoples' Cultural Council is an important voice in the conversation about the return of ancestral remains and belongings of cultural significance.
- Today we are announcing the beginning of the journey forward, and we are pleased to have Tracey Herbert, CEO of the First Peoples' Cultural Council, in attendance.
- The Royal BC Museum welcomes ongoing conversation with the First Peoples' Cultural Council.

**Q7: Why is it important to return cultural belongings and ancestral remains to Aboriginal peoples?**

- As Aboriginal peoples seek to renew and revitalize their communities, the return of ancestral remains and belongings of cultural significance is vitally important towards their recovery.
- Return is a vital tool for self-empowerment, promoting stronger cultural and national identities and affording a special status for indigenous culture within the Canadian cultural landscape.

**Q8: Which Aboriginal groups will be engaged?**

- The Royal BC Museum looks forward to discussions with interested Aboriginal groups in B.C. on the realities of achieving the return of ancestral remains and belongings of cultural significance.

**Q9: How will Aboriginal peoples be involved in this process?**

- Aboriginal peoples will be taking the lead on this process, with support and expertise from the Royal BC Museum.
- This co-created project is all about partnership between the Aboriginal peoples and the Royal BC Museum, with provincial government support.
- More details on the process to be undertaken will be determined in the coming weeks and months, following discussions with Aboriginal leaders.

**Q10: How will the Royal BC Museum support this process?**

- The Royal BC Museum will serve Aboriginal peoples in B.C. by:
  - being a welcoming place for dialogue and idea exchange
  - facilitating conversations
  - providing expertise
  - connecting Aboriginal peoples with international institutions, as requested

**Q11: What role will the B.C. government play?**

- We wholeheartedly support the goal of returning ancestral remains and belongings of cultural significance to Aboriginal peoples in B.C.
- The province supports the Royal BC Museum and Aboriginal peoples working together. As this project evolves, government's role will as well.
- Right now, we are leaving the project in the trustworthy hands of the Aboriginal peoples and the Royal BC Museum.

**Q12: What's involved in returning ancestral remains and belongings of cultural significance?**

- It is imperative that Aboriginal peoples guide the process.
- Aboriginal peoples must be ready and willing to accept cultural materials back.
- Where needed, the Royal BC Museum will provide assistance with international relations and negotiation, as well as expertise and training for care and transportation of materials.

**Q13: Have any items and remains previously been returned to Aboriginal peoples in B.C.?**

Ancestral remains and belongings of cultural significance previously returned to Aboriginal peoples in B.C. include:

- Ancestral remains returned to the Tseycum [Tsay-come] First Nation from the American Museum of Natural History in New York City (2008)
- The G'psgolox [Gaps-go-lox] totem pole returned to the Haisla [High-sla] Nation from the Museum of Ethnography in Stockholm (2006)
- A stone statue returned to the Sto:lo [Stow-low] First Nation from the Burke Museum in Seattle (2006)
- A ceremonial mask returned to the Kwakwaka'wakw [Kwak-wak-ya-wak] First Nation from the British Museum (2005)
- Ancestral remains returned to the Haida from the Field Museum of Chicago (2003)

**Q14: What historical objects are there – are there any specific belongings identified for return to Aboriginal peoples in B.C.?**

- There are ancestral remains and belongings of cultural significance from Aboriginal peoples in B.C. located all over the world. Part of the challenge is identifying the location of many of these precious belongings and clarifying the historical record related to them.
- Aboriginal peoples will take the lead on identifying which belongings and remains they would like returned, with support from the Royal BC Museum.



**Q15: What if the current holder does not want to return the belongings or remains?**

- The process will be led by Aboriginal peoples in B.C.
- The Royal BC Museum will assist with research, including information on provenance, as well as with negotiations and dialogue with other museums and collections, as requested by Aboriginal peoples in B.C.

**Q16: What is the timeline for this project?**

- This is an ongoing commitment to Aboriginal peoples in B.C. about how we want to work together.
- In support of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's response regarding the rights of Aboriginal peoples, we recognize that this journey will take time.

**Q17: What funding will support this project?**

- We are beginning this journey today and anticipate that we will develop a plan over the course of the next few months with Aboriginal peoples and the Royal BC Museum.
- We understand that funding may be needed to support this endeavour. However, we first need to understand the scope of the project and expectations of the Aboriginal community.

**Q18: Why hasn't the B.C. government formally apologized to Aboriginal peoples in B.C.?**

- The B.C. government recognizes the harm that has been done to Indigenous people throughout our collective history and is committed to continuing the hard work of reconciliation in partnership with Aboriginal peoples.
- In the 2003 Throne Speech, the B.C.'s government apologized for the past treatment of Aboriginal people.
- We're working to right historic wrongs.
- With the guidance of First Nations leaders and Aboriginal people, the Province contributes to meaningful reconciliation every day, making progress on closing the gaps on issues of health, education, employment, and awareness of the need for reconciliation.
- To support healing for the families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls, the Province and its Aboriginal partners held a provincial gathering in February.
- In education, we have strengthened the curriculum to ensure the history and legacy of residential schools are included throughout B.C.'s K-12 curriculum.
- In health, together with Aboriginal organizations and Health Canada, we created B.C.'s First Nations Health Authority, the first of its kind in Canada, to transform the health and well-being of B.C.'s First Nations and Aboriginal people.

**Q&A – June 21, 2016**  
**Advice to the Premier**

- We established a new skills training fund, pipeline benefits agreements and an environmental stewardship program to ensure First Nations benefit from LNG development in B.C.
- And we continue to share resource development revenues with First Nations – the first jurisdiction in Canada to do so.



**SPEAKING POINTS FOR**

**Peter Fassbender**

Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

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**Return of Ancestral Remains and Belongings of Cultural  
Significance Announcement  
Premier's Event**

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

12:00 – 12:35 p.m. (Revised to 12:20 p.m. start)

Royal BC Museum  
Totem Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
675 Belleville St., Victoria

Please check against delivery

Event contact:

Anish Dwivedi

Manager, Events Services

cell phone: 778 875-9129



Event description:

- Premier Christy Clark will announce a commitment to work with Aboriginal peoples to develop a plan and process around returning ancestral remains and belongings of cultural significance.
- Minister Fassbender will emcee the event.
- This announcement will be made in collaboration with Aboriginal leaders and the Royal BC Museum.
- This event occurs in Totem Hall at the Royal BC Museum on the 20<sup>th</sup> annual National Aboriginal Day.

Venue description:

- Totem Hall is the central exhibit in the First Peoples gallery at the Royal BC Museum, featuring monumental carvings from Kwakwaka'wakw, Heiltsuk, Nuxalk, Gitksan, Haida and Nuuchah-nulth communities.
- Around the perimeter of the hall are examples of masks, regalia and modern works by Kwakwaka'wakw, Heiltsuk, Nuxalk, Haida, Tsimshian, Gitksan, Nisga'a, Nuuchah-nulth and Salish master carvers.
- As the hall is somewhat dark, additional lighting will be required.

Audience:

- Small group of Aboriginal leaders invited (10-15 expected)
- Aboriginal chiefs:
  - Chief Shane Gottfriedson, Shuswap, Regional Chief, First Nations Assembly
  - Grand Chief Ed John, First National Summit
  - Chief Dallas Smith, Nanwakolas
  - Chief Ron Sam, Songhees
  - Chief William Seymour, Cowichan
  - Chief Andy Thomas, Esquimalt
  - Chief John Wesley, Snuneymuxw
  - Chief Robert Joseph, Gwawaenuk
- Other VIPs:
  - Councillor Cheryl Jones, Nanoose
  - Tracey Herbert, First Peoples' Cultural Council
- **Media invited**

What the audience wants to hear:

- The Province values the deep importance of returning ancestral remains and belongings of cultural significance to Aboriginal people in B.C.

Background:

- The goal is to help support Aboriginal peoples with identifying and potentially bringing back to the province and their communities, cultural items to lineal descendants and culturally affiliated First Nations.
- This action will serve to recognize the histories of indigenous peoples in British Columbia and assist in advancing reconciliation and show commitment on the

part of government to reach out to Aboriginal peoples, building healing relationships.

- B.C. recognizes the importance of cultural dynamics as a critical component of ongoing engagement with Aboriginal peoples at a community level. Relationships with Aboriginal peoples and groups in B.C. remain an important consideration within the provincial government.
- This announcement is best made with a view to making this project an “aspiration.” The tone needs to be very respectful, and mindful that Aboriginal peoples should be the lead, using the expertise of the Royal BC Museum.
- This project will extend into Canada’s sesquicentennial celebrations in 2017. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s report includes a call to the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, and the Canadian Museums Association to mark Canada’s 150th by establishing a dedicated national funding program for commemoration projects on the theme of reconciliation:
- Ancestral remains and cultural belongings previously returned to Aboriginal peoples in B.C. include:
  - Ancestral remains returned to the Tseycum First Nation from the American Museum of Natural History in New York City (2008)
  - The G’psgolox totem pole returned to the Haisla Nation from the Museum of Ethnography in Stockholm (2006)
  - A stone statue returned to the Sto:lo First Nation from the Burke Museum in Seattle (2006)
  - A ceremonial mask returned to the Kwakwaka’wakw First Nation from the British Museum (2005)
  - Ancestral remains returned to the Haida from the Field Museum of Chicago (2003)

#### Parking:

- There is some limited parking at back of the museum.
- The Fairmont Empress is the closest lot, and street parking is also available.

#### Event Onsite Contact:

- Anish Dwivedi, Manager, Events Services. Cell phone: 778 875-9129

#### Dress Code:

- Business

#### Key Messages:

- There are believed to be many belongings of cultural significance and ancestral remains belonging to Aboriginal peoples in B.C. that are now located in other areas of the world.
- Based on examples from other jurisdictions, we understand there have been successful co-created projects to identify and return those priority belongings and remains due to their cultural significance and immense historical value.



- The province of B.C. and the Royal BC Museum would like to explore this opportunity and begin the dialogue with Aboriginal peoples on an initiative like this.
- The Royal BC Museum will be reaching out to Aboriginal peoples to understand how best to create and evolve this important process.
- The Royal BC Museum, under the direction of Professor Jack Lohman, has a solid track record in working with Aboriginal peoples.
- B.C. has the most diverse Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

#### Event Participants:

- Premier Christy Clark
- Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, Peter Fassbender (emcee)
- Grand Chief Ed John, First Nations Summit
- Chief Shane Gottfriedson, regional chief of the BC Assembly of First Nations
- Professor Jack Lohman, CEO of the Royal BC Museum
- Elder Elmer George, Songhees First Nation
- Elder Marianne Thomas, Esquimalt First Nation

#### Agenda

Time	Event Itinerary
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Anish on site for set up at the Totem Pole exhibition at RBCM on the third floor.
<b>11:55 AM</b>	Premier arrives at Royal BC Museum (RBCM) and proceeds to holding area for on the third floor for briefing. The following people will be in the briefing with the Premier: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Hon. Peter Fassbender (EMCEE)</li> <li>2) Hon. John Rustad (No podium role)</li> <li>3) Professor Jack Lohman, Museum Director, RBCM</li> <li>4) Chief Shane Gottfriedson, Regional Chief, Assembly of First Nations</li> <li>5) Grand Chief Ed John, First Nations Summit Executive</li> <li>6) Elder Elmer George, Songhees First Nation</li> <li>7) Elder Marianne Thomas, Esquimalt First Nation</li> </ul>
<b>12:02 PM</b>	Premier and guests proceed to the event area for event. Guests take their position. Minister Fassbender proceeds to the podium.
<b>12:03 PM</b>	Minister Fassbender introduces the following elders for blessings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Elder Elmer George, Songhees First Nation</li> <li>2) Elder Marianne Thomas, Esquimalt First Nation</li> </ul>
<b>12:04 PM</b>	Elders George and Thomas provide blessings
<b>12:10 PM</b>	<b>Minister introduces the Premier</b>
<b>12:11 PM</b>	Premier delivers remarks and returns to her marked position
<b>12:15 PM</b>	<b>Minister Fassbender introduces Chief Shane Gottfriedson</b>
<b>12:16</b>	Shane Gottfriedson delivers remarks

<b>PM</b>	
<b>12:17 PM</b>	<b>Minister Fassbender thanks Chief Gottfriedson and calls on Grand Chief Ed John to deliver remarks</b>
<b>12:18 PM</b>	Grand Chief Ed John Delivers remarks
<b>12:21 PM</b>	<b>Minister Fassbender introduces RBCM representative Professor Jack Lohman</b>
<b>12:22 PM</b>	Professor Lohman delivers remarks
<b>12:25 PM</b>	<b>Minister Fassbender invites Premier back to the podium for media avail</b>
<b>12:33 PM</b>	Media avail concludes, group picture with all attendees.
<b>12:35 PM</b>	Premier departs with Minister Fassbender and Minister Rustad  Note: Ministers should either ride with the Premier or a staff member needs to have a vehicle ready to take them to the airport.

**12:02 p.m.: Speakers move to staging area.**

**12:03 p.m.: Premier and guests proceed to the podium.  
Welcome Elders to provide blessing.**

- Good morning, everyone, and welcome.
- I am Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. It is my great pleasure to be the emcee for today's announcement.
- I extend a warm welcome to today's speakers:
  - Premier Christy Clark
  - Chief Shane Gottfriedson, regional chief of the BC Assembly of First Nations
  - Grand Chief Ed John, First Nations Summit Executive

- Elder Elmer George, Songhees First Nation
  - Elder Marianne Thomas, Esquimalt First Nation
  - Professor Jack Lohman, Royal BC Museum
- Recognize Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation  
John Rustad.
- Recognize Aboriginal chiefs/guests in attendance:
  - Chief Dallas Smith, Nanwokalas [Nan-walk-oh-las]
  - Chief Ron Sam, Songhees
  - Chief William Seymour, Cowichan
  - Chief Andy Thomas, Esquimalt
  - Chief John Wesley, Snuneymuxw [Shnah-nay-mo]
  - Chief Robert Joseph, Gwawaenuk [Gwa-wae-nuk]
  - Councillor Cheryl Jones, Nanoose
  - Tracey Herbert, First Peoples' Cultural Council
- Thank you to the Royal BC Museum for hosting us here today.
- I acknowledge the traditional territory of the Lekwungen-speaking people [luh-kwun-gen].



- Please welcome Elder Elmer George, Songhees First Nation and Elder Marianne Thomas, Esquimalt First Nation who will provide a blessing.

**12:04 p.m.: Blessing from Elder Elmer George and Elder Marianne Thomas**

**12:10 p.m.: Welcome/Introduction by Minister Fassbender**

- Thank you, Elder George and Elder Thomas.
- Please join me in welcoming Premier Christy Clark to the podium.

**12:11 p.m.: Premier Clark speaks**

**12:15 p.m.: Welcome Chief Shane Gottfriedson.**

- Thank you, Premier Clark.
- Next, we have **Chief Shane Gottfriedson**. Chief Gottfriedson was elected the regional chief of the BC Assembly of First Nations in 2015, after serving as chief of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc [Tay-come-loops tay She-KWE-pem] for 12 years.

- Please welcome **Chief Shane Gottfriedson** to the podium.

**12:16 p.m. Chief Shane Gottfriedson speaks**

**12:17 p.m.: Welcome Grand Chief Ed John**

- Thank you, Chief Gottfriedson.
- Please welcome **Grand Chief Ed John**. Grand Chief Ed John is a Hereditary Chief of Tl'azt'en [Tl-az-din] Nation located on the banks of the Nak'al Bun [Knack-ul-bun] (Stuart Lake) in Northern B.C. He is currently serving his 11th consecutive term on the First Nations Summit Task Group.

**12:18 p.m. Grand Chief Ed John speaks**

**12:21 p.m.: Welcome Professor Jack Lohman**

- Thank you, Grand Chief.
- It now gives me great pleasure to invite **Professor Jack Lohman**, to the podium. Jack Lohman is Chief Executive of the

Royal British Columbia Museum and professor in museum design at the Bergen National Academy of the Arts, Norway.

- Please welcome **Professor Jack Lohman** to the podium.

**12:22 p.m. Professor Jack Lohman speaks**

**12:25 p.m.: Thank Professor Jack Lohman and close event**

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- Thank you, Professor Lohman.
- Thanks again to all of you for being here today.
- In closing, I would like to invite today's speakers to gather for a photo. Afterward, Premier Clark will be available for the media.

**12:33 p.m. Photo op and media availability**

**12:35 p.m. Event ends**

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## RE: Photos: RBCM spaces

Thursday, July 7, 2016  
10:32 AM

Subject	RE: Photos: RBCM spaces
From	Dwivedi, Anish GCPE:EX
To	Mandybura, Cadence GCPE:EX
Cc	Lambertson, Erik RBCM:EX; Stenson, Erika RBCM:EX; Rhodes, Gillian GCPE:EX; Bates Gibbs, Bonnie GCPE:EX
Sent	Thursday, June 16, 2016 4:32 PM

Totem gallery looks nice but let's confirm during the advance on Monday. Any suggested times for an advance on Monday?

Anish

**From:** Mandybura, Cadence GCPE:EX

**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2016 4:13 PM

**To:** Dwivedi, Anish GCPE:EX

**Cc:** Lambertson, Erik RBCM:EX; Stenson, Erika RBCM:EX; Rhodes, Gillian GCPE:EX; Bates Gibbs, Bonnie GCPE:EX

**Subject:** Photos: RBCM spaces

Hi Anish,

I understand you're looking for some visuals to help choose a location at RBCM. I chatted with Erik Lambertson at RBCM, and due to the space and angles the Pit House is not an ideal backdrop for this type of event.

The top suggestion is the **totem gallery** – some images below. It is a little dark but Erik tells me that RBCM has held events here before with a small amount of additional lighting. (Erik, please jump in if I'm missing anything. ☺)





Second choice would be a small amphitheatre in the **Living Languages** exhibit. NOTE: this is only possible if the event wraps up by 10am.



Let me know if I can help further. Thanks,

Cadence

**Cadence Mandybura**

Public Affairs Officer

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Province of British Columbia

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