
From: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX
Sent: June 22, 2022 2:42 PM
To: May, Ed LASS:EX
Cc: LP Senior Ministerial Advisors; LP Executive Assistants; LP Ministerial Advisors
Subject: FW: KMQA
Attachments: 20220622_KMQA_MLA.docx

Hi all,

Please use this version.

Thanks,
Melissa

Royal BC Museum – Stopping and Engaging with Public

June 22, 2022

Key Messages

- We are stopping the plan to build a new Royal BC Museum.
- British Columbians made their views clear that we got it wrong.
- We heard, we listened, and we're responding.
- The museum will remain open, while we begin a new, robust public engagement process with all options on the table.
- This museum belongs to the people of this province and decisions about its future should reflect their priorities.
- This public engagement will determine how we address the longstanding structural issues of the museum's buildings.
- We remain committed to protecting our collective history and are proceeding with a new collections facility to house BC's historic and priceless artifacts.

QA

Why did you publicly support this project?

- The problems facing the RBCM have been evident for a long time, including the need to repatriate Indigenous objects, obsolete building systems that put collections at risk, and more.
- We listened to those warnings, which were ignored for too long.
- British Columbians have made themselves clear that it isn't what they want to see at this time.
- We're listening now too. We will reset the plan and engage with people on the future of the museum.

KEY MESSAGES & QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Will you bring back Old Town? Will the third floor be reopened?

- Large sections of the third floor have already been carefully disassembled.
- Given the recent work on the third floor there are increased concerns around asbestos abatement.
- We have encouraged the museum to think about how to best use that space until future plans for the museum are settled.
- The Old Town exhibition has been digitized and will be available online.

Will the IMAX remain open?

- Yes. We have asked the museum to suspend plans to close the museum, including the IMAX theatre.

It seems that closing the third floor was part of your plan – how long have you been planning to close the museum?

- We had made no secret of our view that modernization of the museum was a priority.
- It was promised in Throne Speeches on two occasions.
- Careful review and analysis of the condition of the building continued over the past three years.
- Based on that analysis – which we've released in the business case and concept plan – we put forward the option that now so many British Columbians have had their say on.
- We got it wrong and that's why we're stopping the plan.

Isn't the delay just going to increase costs of whatever option is chosen?

- People have been clear that they didn't like the proposal we put forward.
- It wasn't right for the moment we are in.
- s.13

KEY MESSAGES & QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Are you just putting this off until after the next election, and then doing it anyways?

- Not at all - we have heard from British Columbians that they want a say in the future of their museum.
- That's why we are stopping the project and conducting a robust engagement.
- This is the people's museum, and its future should reflect their priorities.
- We're not putting a time constraint on the process. We will take the time that is needed to achieve a solution that we can all support.

What options will be considered in the public engagement?

- Everything is on the table.
- We have been clear with the public about the information we received on the current condition of the buildings and the challenges that need to be dealt with.
- The key is that any solution must protect and preserve our collective heritage and make that heritage accessible to British Columbians and to visitors.

What will the engagement process involve?

- We've asked RBCM to put together a very broad and inclusive public engagement plan so that people can make themselves heard on the future of the museum.
- s.13
- I expect the museum will also find ways to hear from visitors, as the galleries remain open, about what they want to see in their future visits.
- There will also be ongoing engagement and consultation with First Nations.

KEY MESSAGES & QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How will you keep the museum open and safe for visitors?

- There will be some necessary maintenance and remediation needed.
- We have asked the museum to review and prioritize maintenance and safety work needed to keep the current exhibits open to visitors.
- There will be costs involved, but this is what people have said they want to see right now.
- In the long run, more needs to be done to modernize the museum. But we will engage people on what that looks like.

Will the \$789 million price tag for RBCM now be used for other capital priorities, like building new schools and seismically upgrading them?

- This has never been an either-or situation.
- I am very proud of our historic capital plan to build and upgrade schools across the province.
- We're spending \$1.3 billion to build and expand schools over the next three years, and nearly \$800 million to seismically upgrade even more.
- This is double what the old government spent for school capital.
- Ultimately, the museum does need serious modernization but at this time, we do not know what recommendations will come out of the public engagement or what the final costs will be.

KEY MESSAGES & QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How does the RBCM modernization compare to spending on the FIFA World Cup bid?

- I don't think there is a parallel.
- We are very excited that for the first time ever, BC will be a host to World Cup games in 2026.
- This will put a global spotlight on the province and be a major boost to hard-hit tourism sector bringing in an estimated \$1 billion over five years.
- The museum is about preserving and sharing our collective history. People have been clear they want to be more involved in how we do that, and we are listening to them.