

RBCM Third Floor Closure Announcement NR for review

From: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Holding, Marina TAC:EX <Marina.Holding@gov.bc.ca>, Nessel, Jill GCPE:EX <Jill.Nessel@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 26, 2021 10:30:13 AM PDT
Attachments: 10-20-2021_Third Floor Closure Announcement_DRAFT_Oct 21 SR CW .docx
Hello,

Attached is the latest copy of the RBCM 3rd floor closure NR. They incorporated many of my suggested edits but not the ones I wanted in the lede.

Can you please share any additional edits from your end.

Brian has reviewed and I will share with Neilane as well in advance of the briefing tomorrow once I get a sense from you.

I have also asked for their KMQA so we know how they plan to respond to the "when are you opening the 3rd floor" q.

Thx
Carla

November 1, 2021

Royal BC Museum Announces Upcoming Changes to Core Galleries

VICTORIA, BC — The Royal BC Museum announced today that it will begin closing sections of the third floor for renovations. Minor closures will begin in November, leading up to a full closure of the third floor as of January 2, 2022.

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The Royal BC Museum third floor comprises the First Peoples gallery, *Our Living Languages: First Peoples' Voices in BC* exhibition, and *Becoming BC* gallery. A phased approach to closure allows British Columbians to plan a last visit (on or before December 31, 2021) to beloved exhibits as they were originally built.

"Decolonization of the museum's galleries is important and long overdue, says acting CEO Daniel Muzyka. "As part of our work to implement modernized museum practices, in particular our efforts around decolonization, we will be closing the third-floor so we can decant our galleries. This is necessary to begin the long-term work of creating new narratives that include under-represented voices and reflect the lived experiences and contemporary stories of the people in BC."

The phased closure will begin with the mezzanines in the *Becoming BC* gallery, which have largely focused on promoting the story of the European settlement of BC. Initial work will have a very limited impact for visitors through to the end of the year.

"We are diversifying and decolonizing the way we share the history of B.C.," says Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, Hon. Melanie Mark. "For too long, museums have been colonial institutions that exclude others from telling their own stories. We have an opportunity to change that, and it starts here, now, on the museum's third floor."

s.13

Royal BC Museum staff will continue to offer opportunities for community engagement through webinars, online learning and virtual tours. The museum will also expand its provincial travelling exhibition and pop-up exhibit programs, including installations across Greater Victoria.

— 30 —

About the Royal BC Museum: The Royal BC Museum explores the province's human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of B.C., and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of B.C. in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Located in Victoria on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

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3rd floor comments

From: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
To: Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wormald, Carla JERI:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 26, 2021 10:46:53 AM PDT
Attachments: 10-20-2021_Third Floor Closure Announcement_DRAFT_Oct 21 SR CW_MF.docx
Hi there - some comments from me.

Melissa Farrance | Senior Ministerial Advisor
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
P: 250-213-1432 E: Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca
Pronouns: she/hers

November 1, 2021

Royal BC Museum Announces Upcoming Changes to Core Galleries

VICTORIA, BC — The Royal BC Museum announced today that it will begin closing sections of the third floor for renovations. Minor closures will begin in November, leading up to a full closure of the third floor as of January 2, 2022.

The Royal BC Museum third floor comprises the First Peoples gallery, *Our Living Languages: First Peoples' Voices in BC* exhibition, and *Becoming BC* gallery. A phased approach to closure allows British Columbians to plan a last-visit (on or before December 31, 2021) to beloved exhibits as they were originally built.

"Decolonization of the museum's galleries is important and long overdue, says acting CEO Daniel Muzyka. "As part of our work to implement modernized museum practices, in particular our efforts around decolonization, we will be closing the third-floor so we can decant our galleries. This is necessary to begin the long-term work of creating new narratives that include under-represented voices and reflect the lived experiences and contemporary stories of the people in BC."

The phased closure of the third floor will begin with the mezzanines in the *Becoming BC* gallery, which have largely focused on promoting the story of the European settlement of BC. Initial This work will have a very limited impact for visitors through to the end of the year.

"We are diversifying and decolonizing the way we share the history of B.C.," says Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, Hon. Melanie Mark. "For too long, museums have been colonial institutions that exclude others from telling their own stories. We have an opportunity to change that, and it starts here, now, on the museum's third floor."

During the third-floor closure, the Royal BC Museum staff will continue to offer opportunities for community engagement through webinars, online learning and virtual tours. The museum will also expand its provincial travelling exhibition and pop-up exhibit programs, including installations across Greater Victoria.

— 30 —

About the Royal BC Museum: The Royal BC Museum explores the province's human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of B.C., and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of B.C. in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Located in Victoria on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum

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s.13

RE: RBCM updated NR and KMQA attached

From: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
To: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 28, 2021 12:06:10 PM PDT
Perfecto on it.

From: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 28, 2021 12:06 PM
To: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: RBCM updated NR and KMQA attached

Sorry, when I said no comments from Melissa I meant she had no changes

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 28, 2021, at 12:00 PM, Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Howdy,

Friendly check in on the QA attached, I'm sending the NR back with MMM's edits and was going to send the QA along. Anything else you would like captured? Tomorrow I'll work on a media response from us for back pocket.

THX

From: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX
Sent: October 27, 2021 11:30 AM
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>; Nessel, Jill GCPE:EX <Jill.Nessel@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RBCM updated NR and KMQA attached

Hello,

Attached is the updated News release (with edits accepted) KMQA (with my & Corinna's edits added) and the MO pitch of all the upcoming comm's milestones for the RBCM.

Wanted you to have this info back pocket for this afternoon.

Can you please let me know what additional Q's or edits you have to the KMQA.

Gracias,
Carla

FW: REVISED > 10-26-2021_Third Floor Closure Announcement_DRAFT_Oct 26 SR CW_MF

From: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 29, 2021 11:56:32 AM PDT
Attachments: s.13

From: Drake, Tracey RBCM:EX <tdrake@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>
Sent: October 28, 2021 2:21 PM
To: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>; Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>; Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Nessel, Jill GCPE:EX <Jill.Nessel@gov.bc.ca>; Rich, Samantha RBCM:EX <srich@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>; Stenson, Erika RBCM:EX <EStenson@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>
Subject: REVISED > 10-26-2021_Third Floor Closure Announcement_DRAFT_Oct 26 SR CW_MF

Good afternoon everyone,

Please see attached for the revised NR and Q+A. I believe we were able to resolve all of the outstanding comments and final changes.

Note: As discussed with Melissa and Corinna this afternoon, we have pushed our staff meeting for internal announcement to Wednesday at 9:00am. Therefore, hoping we can coordinate the NR and announcement plan execution on Wednesday AM instead of Monday. I have changed the date on the NR to reflect this.

Thanks,
Tracey

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November 3, 2021

Royal BC Museum Announces Upcoming Changes to Core Galleries

VICTORIA, BC — The Royal BC Museum announced today that it will begin closing sections of the third floor to start the process of decolonization in these galleries, in response to the call to action from Indigenous leaders to increase cultural safety and ensure the museum is a welcome place for everyone. Minor closures will begin in November, leading up to a full closure of the third floor as of January 2, 2022.

The Royal BC Museum third floor comprises the First Peoples gallery, *Our Living Languages: First Peoples' Voices in BC* exhibition, and *Becoming BC* gallery. A phased approach to closure allows British Columbians to plan a visit (on or before December 31, 2021) to exhibits as they were originally built.

"Decolonization of the museum's galleries is important and long overdue," says acting CEO Daniel Muzyka. "As part of our work to implement modernized museum practices, in particular our efforts around decolonization, we will be closing the third-floor so we can decant our galleries. This is necessary to begin the long-term work of creating new narratives that include under-represented voices and reflect the lived experiences and contemporary stories of the people in BC."

The phased closure of the third floor will begin with the mezzanines in the *Becoming BC* gallery, which have largely focused on promoting the story of the European settlement of BC. Every effort will be made to mitigate the impact to visitors through to the end of the year.

During the third-floor closure, the Royal BC Museum staff will continue to offer opportunities for community engagement through webinars, online learning and virtual tours. The museum will also expand its provincial travelling exhibition and pop-up exhibit programs, including installations across Greater Victoria.

"Our government's commitment to truth and reconciliation demands that we diversify and decolonize the way we share the history of B.C.," says Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, Hon. Melanie Mark. "For too long, museums have been colonial institutions that exclude others from telling their own stories. We have an opportunity to turn the museum inside out, and it starts here, now, on the museum's third floor."

— 30 —



About the Royal BC Museum: The Royal BC Museum explores the province's human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of B.C., and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of B.C. in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Located in Victoria on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations), we are a hub of community connections in B.C.—onsite, offsite and online—taking pride in our collective histories.

Photos of third-floor galleries: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/36463010@No5/r6MUg9>

Media contacts:

Sam Rich
Corporate Communications Manager
250-208-9148
srich@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

Wesley MacInnis
Communications Specialist
250-208-8846
news@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

 [RoyalBCMuseum](#)  [royalbcmuseum](#)  [RoyalBCMuseum](#)

FW: Media Report 1 | November 3 Announcement | RBCM

From: Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>
To: Avison, Claire TACS:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Anderson, Kim TIC:EX <Kim.Anderson@ticorp.ca>
Sent: November 4, 2021 12:25:26 PM PDT
Attachments: Media Report 1 November 3 Announcement RBCM.pdf
Looping in

Brian Jonker

Executive Director
Arts and Culture
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
250 217-3991

COVID-19: We are committed to supporting B.C.'s artists and cultural organizations through this difficult time. This includes updating our policies and programs as necessary to match the challenges the sector is now facing. The most up-to-date information will always be posted on our dedicated [COVID 19 FAQ page](#) and individual program pages. Updates will also be announced on our [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) accounts.

From: Drake, Tracey RBCM:EX <tdrake@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>

Sent: November 4, 2021 12:23 PM

To: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>; Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>; Stenson, Erika RBCM:EX <EStenson@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>; Rich, Samantha RBCM:EX <srich@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>; Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Media Report 1 | November 3 Announcement | RBCM

Good afternoon,

Please find attached an overview of the media reporting on the third-floor gallery closures, as announced on November 3, 2021.

A few immediate notes and observations:

- After yesterday's media questions, through Dan's interviews, and online/email questions from the public, our comms team will now be working on a more extensive Q+A that will be ready for Monday. We will share the revised draft.
- Future messaging needs to be more specific in terms of using language that includes *all people of BC* as we consult and create new museum narratives. It seems to be the most common point of contention from yesterday's news.
- Future messaging needs to place greater emphasis on the long-term process of decolonization (and when appropriate, linked to the Modernization project). Although we shared the approved messaging that it would take years to complete, there were some media reports (CTV specifically) that reported incorrectly about the galleries reopening with new exhibits. (We are working with media outlet(s) on correcting those assumptions).

Thank you -
Tracey

Tracey Drake A/Head of Marketing, Communications and Business Development | Museum Operations

ROYAL BC MUSEUM

Traditional Territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations)

675 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC Canada V8W 9W2

tdrake@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca | royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

Join us on: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Flickr](#) | [Instagram](#)

Have a whale of a time at our feature exhibition, *Orcas: Our Shared Future*, on now through March 31, 2022. Double the fun by combining your museum visit with an IMAX® Victoria showtime, now screening *Humpback Whales*.

Media Report on November 3 Announcement

Royal BC Museum Announces Upcoming Changes to Core Galleries

Context

The media release containing the announcement was sent to the Royal BC Museum's full media list at 9:15 AM. The museum's communications department subsequently scheduled several in-person and phone/videocall interviews with acting CEO Dr. Daniel Muzyka, and responded to several other media enquiries with written statements using pre-approved language from the announcement.

On balance, the media coverage on November 3 was balanced and accurate, but the museum's communications manager, Sam Rich, will be reaching out to certain reporters to correct misinformation. The communications team will also assist other museum staff with answering messages from the public or respond on their behalf. There are approximately 50 email messages as of this morning (November 4).

The Q&A document (developed by museum staff, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, and Government Communications and Public Engagement) will be continually updated to reflect the evolving discussion about the announcement.

Media Coverage

- November 3, 2021
 - **CBC**, *Royal B.C. Museum to close exhibits that further colonial narrative* - <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/royal-bc-museum-decolonization-closing-exhibits-1.6235672>
 - **CTV**, *Royal BC Museum replacing Becoming BC, First Peoples galleries as part of 'decolonization' efforts* - <https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/royal-bc-museum-replacing-becoming-bc-first-peoples-galleries-as-part-of-decolonization-efforts-1.5650648>
 - **Global News**, *Royal BC Museum to start process of decolonization with changes to galleries* - <https://globalnews.ca/news/8347538/royal-bc-museum-decolonization-changes/>
 - **CHEK News**, *Royal B.C. Museum starts decolonization of galleries this month, says acting CEO* - <https://www.cheknews.ca/videos/618326e0d2c7660001854e43/royal-b-c-museum-starts-decolonization-of-galleries-this-month-says-acting-ceo>
 - **Victoria News**, *Royal B.C. Museum phasing out galleries that push colonial narrative* - <https://www.vicnews.com/news/royal-b-c-museum-phasing-out-galleries-that-push-colonial-narrative/>
 - Syndicated across Black Press local media (e.g., Saanich News, Oak Bay News, Lake Cowichan Gazette, etc.)
 - **iHeart Radio**, *Royal BC Museum Announces Upcoming Changes to Core Galleries* - <https://www.iheartradio.ca/am-1150/news/royal-bc-museum-announces-upcoming-changes-to-core-galleries-1.16409864>
 - **Times Colonist**, *RBCM closing 3rd floor for 'decolonization' effort that will remove Old Town, settler displays, ship* - <https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/rbcm-closing-3rd-floor-for-a-decolonization-effort-that-will-remove-old-town-settler-displays-ship-4719972>
 - **Winnipeg Free Press**, *Royal B.C. Museum starts decolonization of galleries this month, says acting CEO* - <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/royal-bc-museum-starts-decolonization-of-galleries-this-month-says-acting-ceo-575668512.html>

Pending Media Enquiries

- Jeremy Nuttall, Toronto Star
- Charlie Carey, North Shore News
- Liza Yuzda, City News Vancouver

Website Traffic

Announcement [Webpage](#)

Nov. 3-4

Pageviews: 2,613

Unique Pageviews: 2,250

Social Media

Royal BC Museum Facebook post:

<https://www.facebook.com/RoyalBCMuseum/photos/a.243341854943/10151615393269944>

Royal BC Museum Twitter post: <https://twitter.com/RoyalBCMuseum/status/1456018477504942089>

Hon. Melanie Mark Twitter post: <https://twitter.com/melaniejmark/status/1455987512489353217>

Response from Global News reporter, Richard Zussman:

<https://twitter.com/richardzussman/status/1455951048711946240>

Response from CBC reporter, Justin McElroy: https://twitter.com/j_mcelroy/status/1455948692226150400

Response from the former curator of Indigenous collections and repatriation, Troy Sebastian:

<https://twitter.com/Skink00ts/status/1456021683861524483>

Response from the president of the Friends of BC Archives, Kelly Black:

https://twitter.com/Kelly_B/status/1455944446571388933

Response from CTV news anchor Andrew Johnson:

Thread from the [Capital Daily](#): <https://twitter.com/CapitalDailyVic/status/1456264224569585666>

Facebook post from: Vibrant Victoria: <https://www.facebook.com/vibrantvictoria/posts/10159751842989362>

RBCM materials form GCPE

From: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
To: Shang, Cindy TACS:EX <Cindy.Shang@gov.bc.ca>, Berkes, Andrea TACS:EX <Andrea.Berkes@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 9, 2021 1:29:22 PM PST
Attachments: Final 2 RBCM pieces, RBCM 3rd floor closure materials
Howdy,

As discussed attached are the materials we've sent re: RBCM including recent media responses, media coverage and Issues notes.

Kenton is preparing the binder with this info.

Thx
Carla

Final 2 RBCM pieces

From: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
To: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>, Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 9, 2021 1:21:03 PM PST
Attachments: Royal BC Museum 3rd floor closure media scrum request - updated.docx, IN_RBCM_Decolonization Actions_Nov. 5 2021_FINAL.docx

Hi Kenton,

Attached are the final two pieces MMM asked for re: the RBCM.

Thanks
Carla

Royal BC Museum 3rd floor closure media scrum request

Advice for the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

Tuesday Nov. 9, 2021

Key Messages

- **The Royal BC Museum is working to modernize museum practices and is committed to sharing the stories and voices of all British Columbians.**
- **The museum's galleries were developed a half century ago through a Eurocentric lens that does not accurately reflect the stories of all British Columbians.**
- **It's imperative to ensure the stories of Indigenous peoples and that of other cultural groups who have helped to build this beautiful province are accurately reflected in our exhibits at the RBCM**
- **The Royal BC Museum's decision to close down sections of its third floor is part of its work to modernized museum practices, and its commitment to decolonization.**
- **This decision is aligned with our government's commitment to truth and reconciliation that demands we diversify and decolonize the way we share the history of B.C.**
- **The steps to modernize and reimagine the RBCM in the 21st century will benefit the generations that follow.**

Q&A:

1. Does the closure have to do with the racism allegations last summer?

- **The museum is working to become a fully safe and inclusive workplace following allegations of systemic racism from a former senior staff member.**
- **The museum's galleries were developed a half century ago through a Eurocentric lens that does not accurately reflect the stories of all British Columbians.**
- **The Royal BC Museum's decision to close down sections of its third floor is part of its work to modernized museum practices, and its commitment to decolonization.**

2. What were some of the concerns people heard about the 3rd floor in particular?

- The narrative of the galleries on the third floor celebrates a European-settler view of what is now British Columbia and is long overdue for updates.
- The work to include under-represented voices and contemporary stories of BC begins on the third floor.

3. Does the closure have to do with modernization? What is the latest on that?

- RBCM is beginning closing sections of the third floor to start the process of decolonization in these galleries.
- Our government is committed to modernizing the Royal BC Museum and we are looking at options of what this could look like.

4. Can you clarify what sort of consultations with Indigenous communities went into this decision?

- In 2019, RBCM engaged with Indigenous communities across B.C. and will be following up on the engagement recommendations as part of the modernization process.
- RBCM and Ministry staff have met with the Songhees First Nation on multiple occasions.
- Continuing to work closely with the Indigenous communities will be key to the success of this project.

5. And what sort of consultations will be taking in place in deciding what should replace the displays?

- Some initial consultation has been undertaken, and we will be reaching out to communities across the province to ensure that the experiences and contributions of contemporary Indigenous people, as well as Canadians from other underrepresented groups, as the project continues.

6. When will the 3rd floor reopen?

- There will be minimal closures of the third-floor galleries, with limited impact to visitors, starting in November.
- There will be a full closure of the third-floor galleries as of January 2nd 2022.
- The process of creating new narratives is long and requires a thoughtful process of community outreach, consultation and collaboration. We expect this work to take a number of years to complete.

Any questions on membership or pricing are best directed to the museum directly.

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RBCM 3rd floor closure materials

From: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
To: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>, Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>, Nesbitt, Rachel GCPE:EX <Rachel.Nesbitt@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 9, 2021 11:57:53 AM PST
Attachments: Media Summary_RBCM decolonization announcement_Nov. 4.docx, s.13
IN_RBCM_Modernization_Nov. 5, 2021_Draft.docx, RBCM draft response for correspondence.docx

Hi Kenton,

Attached please find the materials as requested by the Minister regarding RBCM including:

- Most recent media scan from the 3rd floor closure announcement last week
- Updated Issues note on modernization
s.13
- RBCM's *proposed* correspondence response

And we'll send this updated IN momentarily

- Updated Issues note on decolonization

Thx

Carla

Media Coverage Summary RBCM Decolonization Announcement

Updated Nov. 9, 2021

Background: On Nov. 4, 2021, the BC Royal Museum announced it will closing the mezzanines in the Becoming BC Gallery, which have largely focused on promoting the story of European settlement as it starts its efforts to decolonize the indigenous exhibits. The decision was made in response to the calls from indigenous leaders to make the institution a welcoming place for everyone. The closure of the indigenous exhibits is a necessary as the museum begins to create new narratives that include underrepresented voices and stories of people in B.C.

Media Coverage: This media summary captures day one of the media coverage on RBCM efforts to decolonize its museum. Minister's quotes have been highlighted in the coverage below. Samples of social media (twitter) reflect both negative and positive public reaction to the news. This follows the articles.

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Rothenburger - RBCM decolonization - CFJC Noon News - November 08, 2021, 12:17	6
Nobody wants museum's Discovery or Old Town gone – Times Colonist – Nov. 6, 2021	7
Fortney - RBCM decolonization – CBU - November 06, 2021, 07:30.....	8
Royal B.C. Museum to close exhibits that further colonial narrative - CBC News - Nov 03, 2021	9
Royal B.C. Museum phasing out galleries that push colonial narrative - VICTORIA NEWS STAFF Nov. 3, 2021 11:45 a.m.	10
RBCM closing 3rd floor in 'decolonization' that will drop Old Town, settler displays - Times Colonist (Victoria) - Page A01 - By Darron Kloster - 04-Nov-2021	11
Fortney - RBCM decolonization - CBUT - November 05, 2021, 18:34	12
Royal BC Museum to remove settler galleries to begin process of decolonization – the Hive - Kenneth Chan - Nov 4 2021, 1:23 pm	13
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Royal BC Museum will phase out their First Peoples and Becoming BC galleries -- Victoria Buzz (Victoria) - Ryan Hook - 2021-11-04 11:25	15
Royal BC Museum replacing Becoming BC, First Peoples galleries as part of 'decolonization' efforts CTV.ca – Nov. 3, 2021	16
B.C. Museum beginning to decolonize its collections - The Daily Courier (Kelowna), Page A01, 04-Nov-2021	17

Media Coverage Summary RBCM Decolonization Announcement

Updated Nov. 9, 2021

Muzyka - RBCM decolonization - CFX Mornings with Al Ferraby - 2021-11-04 08:51.....	17
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It's the destruction of a popular attraction - Times Colonist (Victoria) - November 06, 2021	21
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Earliest memories - Times Colonist (Victoria) - November 09, 2021	22
More thoughts on the remaking of our museum - Times Colonist (Victoria) - November 09, 2021	23
My great-grandfather - Times Colonist (Victoria) - November 09, 2021	23
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Despite outcry, changes will go ahead at museum, minister says - Times Colonist (Victoria) - November 09, 2021

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By Darron Kloster
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Royal BC Museum plans to decolonize first-settler exhibits to 'increase cultural safety' – western Standard Online – Nov. 8, 2021

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Rothenburger - RBCM decolonization -CFJC Noon News - November 08, 2021, 12:17

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Nobody wants museum's Discovery or Old Town gone – Times Colonist – Nov. 6, 2021
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Fortney - RBCM decolonization – CBU - November 06, 2021, 07:30

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**Royal B.C. Museum to close exhibits that further colonial narrative - CBC News - Nov
03, 2021**

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Updated Nov. 9, 2021

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Royal B.C. Museum phasing out galleries that push colonial narrative - VICTORIA NEWS STAFF

Nov. 3, 2021 11:45 a.m.

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**RBCM closing 3rd floor in 'decolonization' that will drop Old Town, settler displays - Times
Colonist (Victoria) - Page A01 - By Darron Kloster - 04-Nov-2021**

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Fortney - RBCM decolonization - CBUT - November 05, 2021, 18:34
By CBC News Vancouver

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Copyright

**Royal BC Museum to remove settler galleries to begin process of decolonization – the Hive -
Kenneth Chan - Nov 4 2021, 1:23 pm**

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RBCM decolonization - CHAN (Global BC - Vancouver) - Global BC Early News - 2021-11-03

17:14

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CFAX: Muzyka - RBCM decolonization - CFAX (Victoria) – Nov. 11, 2021

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CHAN: Mark/Muzyka/Sebastian - RBCM decolonization - CHAN (Global BC - Vancouver) -

2021-11-03 18:16

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**Royal BC Museum will phase out their First Peoples and Becoming BC galleries -- Victoria Buzz
(Victoria) - Ryan Hook - 2021-11-04 11:25**

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Royal BC Museum replacing Becoming BC, First Peoples galleries as part of 'decolonization' efforts CTV.ca – Nov. 3, 2021

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**B.C. Museum beginning to decolonize its collections - The Daily Courier (Kelowna), Page A01,
04-Nov-2021**

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Muzyka - RBCM decolonization - CFAX Mornings with Al Ferraby - 2021-11-04 08:51

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Letters to the Editor

Instead of revamping the museum - Times Colonist (Victoria) - November 09, 2021

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Decolonize - Times Colonist (Victoria) - November 09, 2021

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Decolonize - Times Colonist (Victoria) - November 09, 2021

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It's the destruction of a popular attraction - Times Colonist (Victoria) - November 06, 2021

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Decolonizing - Times Colonist (Victoria) - November 09, 2021

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Earliest memories - Times Colonist (Victoria) - November 09, 2021

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Steve Ireland

More thoughts on the remaking of our museum - Times Colonist (Victoria) - November 09, 2021

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My great-grandfather - Times Colonist (Victoria) - November 09, 2021

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Old Town at the Royal B.C. Museum - Times Colonist (Victoria) - November 09, 2021

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Old Town gone

Times Colonist (Victoria)
Tuesday, November 09, 2021

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Royal - Times Colonist (Victoria) - November 09, 2021

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06, 2021**

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Now, about the 'Royal' in the museum's name - Times Colonist (Victoria) November 06, 2021

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Remove the offensive, keep our Old Town - Times Colonist (Victoria) - November 06, 2021

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Social Media Coverage

RBCM news \ on Twitter

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RBCM discussed at Victoria City Council

From: Erickson, Darb TACS:EX <Darb.Erickson@gov.bc.ca>
To: Avison, Claire TACS:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>, Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>, Reid, Kimberley TACS:EX <Kimberley.Reid@gov.bc.ca>, Bottomley, Allison TACS:EX <Allison.Bottomley@gov.bc.ca>, Warwick, Alexei TACS:EX <Alexei.Warwick@gov.bc.ca>, Thunander, Ingmarie TACS:EX <Ingmarie.Thunander@gov.bc.ca>, Shang, Cindy TACS:EX <Cindy.Shang@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 19, 2021 10:34:52 AM PST
Attachments: CMM_Motion on Closing Museum Galleries.pdf

Hi all,

Further to our discussion this morning about the RBCM, Victoria City Council discussed this yesterday at their Committee of the Whole. It was a very interesting conversation. I encourage you to watch it when you have some time. It is about ½ an hour.

The item starts at 4:09:15 and concludes at 4:38:29.

<https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/Players/ISIStandAlonePlayer.aspx?Id=4a1f712b-290d-4744-8fd9-3147690694ad>

In short, there was a motion put forward for the museum to delay the closure until the process of public consultation has been completed (See attached). The motion did not pass.

Darb Erickson

Director - Cultural Services
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
p: 250.419.8793 | c: 250.880.4524



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 18, 2021**

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** November 15, 2021
From: Councillor Young and Councillor Andrew
Subject: Motion on Closing Museum Galleries

BACKGROUND

The current plan presented by the museum is that popular galleries will be closed and dismantled while the museum consults and plans what to do with the space. Given the complexity of consultation combined with the number of stakeholder groups and the technical challenges of designing new museum exhibitions, the process could be lengthy:

"The process could take years, Muzyka [acting CEO] said, as consultations begin with "all voices from British Columbia" on how to redesign and curate the third floor. Until it's complete, the third floor will remain closed."

[Vancouver Sun, November 4, 2021]

We would like to think that the Museum has begun to at least consider what kind of exhibit might replace the "colonial" exhibits that are to be removed, but of course if the expressed desire for consultation is sincere these ideas can only be in the most general form.

The museum does not attract the number of visitors as it did when it was free, but it is still a significant part of Victoria's tourist industry. Closing some of the most popular galleries can only hurt our attractiveness to visitors. A process of consultation that appears to drag on unduly, at a cost to our economy, may work against, rather than for, the process of reconciliation with First Nations and other groups.

If the museum were to carry out the process of consultation and detailed exhibit design before closing the exhibits, the period when the galleries are "dark" could be reduced from years to months.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayor write on behalf of council to the Provincial government and to Royal BC Museum board members to request galleries of the museum intended for redevelopment remain open to the public until consultation is completed, themes for the replacement exhibits are determined, and detailed design is complete.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Young".

Councillor Young

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Andrew".

Councillor Andrew

Fwd: comms plan

From: Avison, Claire TACS:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>
To: Poirier, Dorice TACS:EX <Dorice.Poirier@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 30, 2021 11:52:17 AM PST
Attachments: s.13
Plse print thx

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stenson, Erika RBCM:EX" <EStenson@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>
Date: November 29, 2021 at 5:38:02 PM PST
To: "Jonker, Brian TACS:EX" <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>, "Avison, Claire TACS:EX" <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: comms plan

In case you hadn't seen as circulated to the working group and to GCPE
Erika

From: Stenson, Erika RBCM:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 25, 2021 4:36 PM
To: 'Julien Bahain' <Julien.Bahain@infrastructurebc.com>
Cc: MacKay, Diane RBCM:EX <dmackay@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: comms plan

Hi Julien
Just under the wire! My team is sharing back to TACS as well.
Erika

Erika Stenson A/Vice President, Museum Operations | Executive

ROYAL BC MUSEUM

Traditional Territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations)
675 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC Canada V8W 9W2
T 250 886-2521

EStenson@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca | royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

Join us on: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Flickr](#) | [Instagram](#)

Have a whale of a time at our feature exhibition, *Orcas: Our Shared Future*, on now through March 31, 2022. Double the fun by combining your museum visit with an IMAX® Victoria showtime, now screening *Humpback Whales*.

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RE: Edited - RBCM FAQs

From: Drake, Tracey RBCM:EX <tdrake@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>
To: Nessel, Jill GCPE:EX <Jill.Nessel@gov.bc.ca>, Rich, Samantha RBCM:EX <srich@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>, Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>, Stenson, Erika RBCM:EX <EStenson@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>, Avison, Claire TACS:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>, Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 8, 2021 4:27:04 PM PST
Attachments: RBCM DOCUMENT Public-facing FAQ for third floor__Dec 8_SR_TD2.docx
Hi Jill,

See attached for the revisions of the next round FAQs. Where it was appropriate, the changes were made. Some questions/comments still remain. Where there is clear discrepancy on messaging, we left the original messaging and added notes for clarification/discussion.

Thanks,
Tracey

Tracey Drake A/Head of Marketing, Communications and Business Development | Museum Operations

ROYAL BC MUSEUM

Traditional Territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations)
675 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC Canada V8W 9W2
T 250-883-8628

tdrake@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca | royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

Join us on: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Flickr](#) | [Instagram](#)

Have a whale of a time at our feature exhibition, *Orcas: Our Shared Future*, on now through March 31, 2022. Double the fun by combining your museum visit with an IMAX[®] Victoria showtime, now screening *Humpback Whales*.

From: Nessel, Jill GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 4:15 PM
To: Drake, Tracey RBCM:EX <tdrake@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>; Rich, Samantha RBCM:EX <srich@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>
Subject: Edited - RBCM FAQs

Hi Tracey and Sam,

The FAQs have been through extensive review with GCPE and TACS. Can you please return a clean copy to me tomorrow morning and I will share with the DM and MO. Thanks so much.

Jill

Jill Nessel

Senior Public Affairs Officer, Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
Mobile: 250 880-3455

Third Floor Galleries – Updates for December 6, 2021

On November 3, 2021, the Royal BC Museum announced it will be closing the third-floor galleries, at 6:00pm on December 31, 2021. This includes the Becoming BC and First Peoples galleries.

Why are the third floor galleries being dismantled?

In 2019, Government undertook a public engagement to inform the modernization of the museum. We heard that British Columbians want us to make changes that will include the voices and reflect the lived experiences of the communities and peoples in British Columbia. It's imperative to ensure the stories of Indigenous peoples and that of other cultural groups who have helped to build this beautiful province are accurately reflected in our exhibits at the RBCM. This decision is aligned with our government's commitment to truth and reconciliation that demands we diversify the way we share the history of B.C. The steps to modernize and reimagine the RBCM in the 21st century will benefit the generations that follow. Museums around the world are undergoing a similar process.

Aside from the wooden facades, and Captain Vancouver's ship, all the artifacts in the Becoming BC Gallery, which includes Old Town, and the First Peoples Gallery are being kept and conserved. Many of these artifacts will form part of the new galleries. No history is being erased and no treasures are being destroyed. What is being dismantled is the display cases, the wooden facades and staging, which includes Old Town and the ship *Discovery*.

The facades, staging and display cases of the exhibits need to be modernized. When the galleries on the third floor were built over 50 years ago, materials were used that do not meet today's standards. They contain asbestos, lead, and other hazardous material.

s.13

Suggestion to include government's commitment to the RBCM and making it a priority through its mandates.

Why is this happening now?

Government initially started its Modernization process at the Royal BC Museum four years ago. The need for upgraded facilities to preserve and protect cultural and historical treasures of British Columbia was identified and shared publicly. The Museum's extensive collections have outgrown the available space and the buildings no longer meet today's accessibility or seismic standards.

The Collections and Research Building (CRB) in Colwood is the first phase of the Modernization project and is currently in the request for proposals stage. The successful design and build team will be announced in Summer 2022 and the CRB is expected to open in 2025.

As part of the Modernization project, in the government consultation in 2019, we heard that British Columbians want us to make changes that will include the voices and reflect the lived experiences of the communities and peoples in British Columbia.

The intent to move forward on the updates required to the galleries was shared more recently in our June 29th 2021 Report to British Columbians, which outlined the need for the Museum to replace its outdated human history galleries with inclusive new exhibits that reflect the diversity of the people of British Columbia.

Government is currently reviewing options for the second phase of Modernization, which could include a brand-new building. A decision is expected in 2022.

s.13

Suggest question and answer about how and when the public will be engaged to reimagine RBCM and include examples of the different special interest groups that will be consulted.

Will Old Town be rebuilt?

It has always been our intention that Old Town and the First Peoples Gallery will return in some form and will reappear in future galleries with more inclusive storytelling.

We have heard from many British Columbians that Old Town is their most loved part of the museum. The immersive sights and smells are a popular highlight. These opinions, thoughts, concerns and ideas will help to inform future decisions and will be part of the museum's community outreach and engagement process over the coming years.

The asbestos issue in the facades of the exhibits, including Old Town and the First Peoples Gallery. It is important to note that these are just facades, essentially immersive display cases, and they can be recreated using materials that meet today's standards. The historical and cultural treasures housed within these facades will all carefully removed and conserved. No history is being erased and no treasures are being destroyed.

Is the asbestos in the exhibitions a risk to visitors?

The asbestos within the exhibition facades is not a risk to visitors until it is disturbed. Removing it has been a priority for the museum for some time now. Building materials containing asbestos were commonly used until the associated health risks were understood. Canada banned the use of asbestos in 1979. Parts of the Becoming BC gallery were opened in 1972, and the First Peoples' Gallery in 1977. Asbestos poses very little risk to health until the fibres are released into the air; this is a common issue during renovations to older buildings such as the museum. When the fibres are released into the air, they can cause respiratory problems. [HealthLink BC has provided information regarding asbestos.](#)

Is the asbestos in the exhibitions a risk to museum staff?

The museum staff who will be working on the decanting process on the third floor were fitted for and equipped with special respiratory equipment to protect them while they conduct this important work.

The process of decanting galleries—what does “decant” actually mean?

“Decant” is a term frequently used in a museum context and means to remove sensitive historical objects or specimens from their gallery displays, and to return them to storage in collections areas. It does not refer to the exhibition facades; they are simply being disassembled.

s.13

What does decanting involve?

Decanting involves an initial inspection of the collections on display to determine whether conservation treatment is necessary, to preserve the objects for future exhibits and future generations, before they are returned to collections for storage and considered for use in future exhibits.

Indigenous cultural belongings, such as those on display in the First Peoples Gallery, take even longer to decant because the process must follow important cultural protocols set by the communities from where the objects originated.

What exhibits have been closed since the November 3rd announcement?

The lumber and mining mezzanines in the Becoming BC gallery, and the Cosmology display in the First Peoples' gallery closed in November. The work on decanting these exhibitions has begun, however none of the work will involve disrupting hazardous material until the third floor is fully closed. All other exhibitions, including the ship Discovery, Old Town, the gold panning exhibition featuring the water wheel and Totem Hall will remain open to visitors until December 31st 2021.

Suggest a question and answer that allows for promotion of pop-ups and travelling exhibits

s.13

Who is responsible for the decanting work?

At the Royal BC Museum, decanting is overseen by curators, conservators or collections managers—all of whom are trained to safely handle collections. This work will take place in partnership with communities where relevant, to ensure artifacts are handled in the culturally appropriate ways.

s.13

There are no wrecking crews, construction workers or renovation labourers involved in the process of decanting. Historical objects and specimens are very fragile and sensitive to their environments, so decanting can only be performed by museum professionals who are specially trained to handle the collections.

Once the decanting process is completed, where are the items going?

The objects removed from the galleries will be carefully removed, packed and stored. Some items will find a home in the new Collections and Research Building, scheduled to open in 2025 in Colwood, BC. Some items from the Becoming BC and First Peoples Gallery may be included in the new galleries at the museum site.

How long will the process take?

We anticipate the process will take several years.

Decanting is a delicate process that can only be overseen by specially trained museum staff; and it is very time consuming. To ensure the safety of the historical objects and specimens on display, the work must be performed carefully.

Indigenous cultural belongings, such as those on display in the First Peoples Gallery, take even longer to decant because the process must follow important cultural protocols set by the communities from where the objects originated.

How long have the objects been untouched in some of those exhibits?

With the exception of regular conservation inspections, many objects in the third-floor galleries have been on display since the galleries first opened, 50 years ago. A thorough review of where and why objects are on display is long overdue.

How are galleries and exhibitions maintained over time?

Objects on display receive regular inspections and, if necessary, conservation treatment. There are daily inspections of the museum by the Exhibitions team, where they look for obvious signs of disruption or damage to the galleries, these are also monitored by our security team on camera.

The Conservation and Collections teams practice regular care and maintenance in terms of dusting and cleaning of open displays and running an integrated pest management program.

RE: KM's RBCM Interview Wednesday

From: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
To: Olson, Michael GCPE:EX <Michael.Olson@gov.bc.ca>, Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 14, 2021 11:00:17 AM PST
Great thanks all.

Carla

From: Olson, Michael GCPE:EX <Michael.Olson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 14, 2021 10:55 AM
To: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>; Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: KM's RBCM Interview Wednesday

Just a couple of small edits, in green. Thank you!

From: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 14, 2021 10:38 AM
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>; Olson, Michael GCPE:EX <Michael.Olson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: KM's RBCM Interview Wednesday

Sure, added below. Anything else from your end Michael.

THX

From: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 14, 2021 10:29 AM
To: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>; Olson, Michael GCPE:EX <Michael.Olson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: KM's RBCM Interview Wednesday

s.13

From: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX
Sent: December 14, 2021 10:24 AM
To: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>; Olson, Michael GCPE:EX <Michael.Olson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: KM's RBCM Interview Wednesday

Including Michael, as s.22

From: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 14, 2021 10:05 AM
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: KM's RBCM Interview Wednesday

Hi Both,

As mentioned to Melissa last night, Darron Kloster from the TC is coming for a museum visit this afternoon and will chat with Dan, the CEO, via conference call on Wednesday.

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FW: RBCM FAQs

From: Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 15, 2021 3:03:18 PM PST
Attachments: RBCM DOCUMENT Public-facing FAQ for third floor__Dec 10_SR_TD2 es td5.docx

Here you go

Third Floor (Human History) Galleries – Updates for December 10, 2021

Context: On November 3, 2021, the Royal BC Museum (the museum) announced we will be closing the third-floor galleries, at 6:00pm on December 31, 2021. This includes the Becoming BC and First Peoples galleries.

Why are the third floor galleries being closed?

As part of the Modernization project, in the government consultation in 2019, we heard that British Columbians want us to make changes that will include the voices and reflect the lived experiences of the communities and peoples in British Columbia.

It's imperative to ensure the stories of Indigenous peoples and that of other institutionally under-represented peoples are accurately reflected in our exhibits and galleries at the museum.

All the artifacts and cultural items in the First Peoples gallery and the Becoming BC gallery, which includes Old Town, are being kept and conserved. Many of these artifacts will form part of the new galleries. No histories are being erased and no treasures are being destroyed. Structures like the display cases, the wooden facades and staging, which includes Old Town and Captain Vancouver's ship *HMS Discovery* will be dismantled.

The facades, staging and display cases of the exhibits need to be modernized. When the galleries on the third floor were built over 50 years ago, materials were used that do not meet today's standards. They contain hazardous materials such as asbestos and lead. In normal operations these materials do not provide any risk to visitors or staff, but with the modernizing and changing of the spaces, these materials could be disturbed which requires us to take proper precautions and ensure everything is modernized and up to current standards.

The B.C. government is working to modernize the Royal BC Museum. As outlined in Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport's mandate letter, work continues to redevelop the museum.

Why is this happening now?

The museum's board of directors has committed to modernizing the museum and ensuring it is a culturally safe and inclusive place for all the people of BC.

The museum has been working toward modernization for a number of years. In 2018, the Province began working with the museum to support modernization. The need for upgraded facilities to preserve and protect the collections was identified and has been shared publicly. The museum and archives' extensive collections have outgrown the available space and the buildings no longer meet today's accessibility or seismic standards.

The Collections and Research Building (CRB) in Colwood is the first phase of the Modernization project and is currently in the request for proposals stage. The successful design and build team will be announced in summer 2022 and the CRB is expected to open in summer 2025.

The intent to move forward on the updates required to the galleries was shared in our [June 29th 2021 Report to British Columbians](#), which outlined the need for the museum to replace our outdated Human History galleries with inclusive new exhibits that reflect the many histories of the people in British Columbia.

Government is currently reviewing options for the second phase of Modernization, which could include a new building. A decision is expected in 2022.

Community engagement is an important part of modernization. We have begun initial outreach, including an interactive survey posted on the third floor of the museum that asks visitors to share what they love most about the galleries and what they would like to see in the future. We are also in the planning stages of a formal province wide public outreach process which will begin in April 2022.

Will Old Town be rebuilt?

It has always been our intention that future galleries continue to be immersive and experiential. Deep consideration and collaboration on how to develop a more inclusive and contemporary experience, including Old Town and the First Peoples Gallery, will be undertaken in the next few years.

We have heard from many British Columbians that Old Town is a loved part of the museum. The immersive sights and smells are a popular highlight. These opinions, thoughts, concerns and ideas will help to inform future decisions and will be part of the museum's community outreach and engagement process over the coming years.

There are hazardous materials in the facades of the exhibits, including Old Town and the First Peoples Gallery. It is important to note that these are just facades, essentially immersive display cases and props, and they can be recreated using materials that meet today's standards. In normal operations these materials do not provide any risk to visitors or staff, but with the decanting of the spaces, these materials could be disturbed which requires us to take proper precautions and ensure everything is modernized and up to current standards.

The historical and cultural objects housed within these facades will all be carefully removed and conserved. No histories are being erased and no collections are being destroyed.

Are the hazardous materials in the exhibits a risk to visitors?

The materials within the exhibition facades are not a risk to visitors. Removing hazards has been a priority for the museum for a number of years. In normal operations these materials do not provide any risk to visitors or staff, but with the modernization and changes to the spaces, these materials could be disturbed which requires us to take proper precautions and ensure everything is modernized and up to current standards.

Are the hazardous materials in the exhibitions a risk to museum staff?

The museum has a hazardous materials consultant providing direction and advice for all work. The museum staff who will be working on the decanting process on the third floor are all trained to work within those areas and are fitted for and equipped with special safety equipment to protect them while they conduct this important work.

What exhibits have been closed since the November 3rd announcement?

The lumber and mining mezzanines in the Becoming BC gallery, and the Cosmology display in the First Peoples' gallery closed in November. The work on decanting these exhibitions has begun,

however none of the work will involve disrupting hazardous material until the third floor is fully closed. All other exhibits, including the ship Discovery, Old Town, the gold panning exhibit (featuring the water wheel) and Totem Hall will remain open to visitors until December 31· 2021.

The process of decanting galleries—what does “decant” actually mean?

“Decant” is a term frequently used in a museum context and means to remove collections - historical objects or specimens - from their gallery displays.

What does decanting involve?

Decanting involves an initial inspection of the collections on display to determine whether conservation treatment is necessary, to preserve the objects for future exhibits and future generations, before they are returned to collections for storage and considered for use in future exhibits or research.

Indigenous cultural belongings, such as those on display in the First Peoples Gallery, take longer to decant because the process must follow important cultural protocols set by the communities from where the objects originated. Museum staff will continue to work with communities on access to their cultural objects and treasures throughout the closure.

Who is responsible for the decanting work?

At the Royal BC Museum, decanting is overseen by curators, conservators and collections managers—all of whom are trained to safely handle collections. This work will take place in partnership with communities where appropriate, to ensure artifacts are handled with proper cultural protocols.

There are no demolition crews, construction workers or renovation labourers involved in the process of decanting. Historical collections are very fragile and sensitive to their environments, so decanting can only be performed by museum professionals who are trained to handle the collections.

Once the decanting process is completed, where are the items going?

The objects removed from the galleries will be carefully removed, packed and stored. Items from the Becoming BC and First Peoples gallery will be included in the new galleries at the museum site.

How long have the objects been untouched in some of those exhibits?

With the exception of regular conservation inspections, many objects in the third-floor galleries have been on display since the galleries first opened, 50 years ago. A thorough review of where and why objects are on display is long overdue.

How are galleries and exhibitions maintained over time?

Objects on display receive regular inspections and, if necessary, conservation treatment. There are daily inspections of the museum by the Exhibitions team, where they look for obvious signs of disruption or damage to the galleries, these are also monitored by our security team on camera.

The Conservation and Collections teams practice regular care and maintenance in terms of dusting and cleaning of open displays and running an integrated pest management program.

Re: RBCM DOCUMENT Public-facing FAQ for third floor__Dec 16 Updated from MO CLEAN

From: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>, Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 16, 2021 2:14:02 PM PST
Super thank you. And good to post ASAP?

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 16, 2021, at 2:13 PM, Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

The FAQ is approved.

From: Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 16, 2021 1:48 PM
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>; Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: RBCM DOCUMENT Public-facing FAQ for third floor__Dec 16 Updated from MO CLEAN

Do we want to share with Michael? Or have you already?

*Corinna Fillion
Communications Director
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport*

250-882-0918

From: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 16, 2021 1:46 PM
To: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>; Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: RBCM DOCUMENT Public-facing FAQ for third floor__Dec 16 Updated from MO CLEAN

Works for me. If there are no more comments, I can share with MMM.

From: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 16, 2021 1:42 PM
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>; Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RBCM DOCUMENT Public-facing FAQ for third floor__Dec 16 Updated from MO CLEAN

Not so simple version attached clean and track changes version. I kept a few more of the "decants" explained it up front and removed where it wasn't really necessary.

THX

FW: CP_RBCM_Modernization_Dec8.doc

From: Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>
To: Shang, Cindy TACS:EX <Cindy.Shang@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 17, 2021 10:04:23 AM PST
Attachments: s.12; s.13

Brian Jonker
Executive Director
Arts and Culture
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
250 217-3991

COVID-19: We are committed to supporting B.C.'s artists and cultural organizations through this difficult time. This includes updating our policies and programs as necessary to match the challenges the sector is now facing. The most up-to-date information will always be posted on our dedicated [COVID 19 FAQ page](#) and individual program pages. Updates will also be announced on our [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) accounts.

From: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 17, 2021 8:46 AM
To: Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>; Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Nessel, Jill GCPE:EX <Jill.Nessel@gov.bc.ca>; Pilling, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Pilling@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE:s.12; s.13

Hi Brian, as discussed, I've stripped out our roll out so you can add yours instead for TB purposes. We will work to adjust this to reflect your comments, separating CRB and ensuring our roll-out aligns with the work you have just done

C

*Corinna Filion
Communications Director
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
250-882-0918*

From: Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 17, 2021 7:33 AM
To: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>; Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: s.12; s.13
Importance: High

Hi Both,

I need to finalize this today, given the work this week with RBCM is there anything that you would like to amend here? If not, are you able to remove remaining comments and save/send the final point in time version of this with today's date....that way I can include it as an appendix with TBS is looking for. Would hate to have this be the missing piece resulting in us being delayed on a TB date.

Brian Jonker
Executive Director
Arts and Culture
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
250 217-3991

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From: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: December 13, 2021 3:18 PM

To: Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: s.12; s.13

Still some work to do on the roll out plan timing with regards to pop ups but just about there.

There is discrepancy among TIC and program about what milestones should be included in the comms plan but we've defaulted to your recommendations.

From: Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: December 8, 2021 3:52 PM

To: Nessel, Jill GCPE:EX <Jill.Nessel@gov.bc.ca>; Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>; Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>; Avison, Claire TACS:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Erickson, Darb TACS:EX <Darb.Erickson@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: s.12; s.13

Hi All,

Keeping my feedback internal to TACS at the moment. Its looking better for sure, think we still have some coordination challenges and thinking through strategy with RBCM but that can liley follow with a supplemental or revised plan – after all these are point in time and will change as we move forward.

Page 097 of 365 to/à Page 103 of 365

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13

RBCM Comms Procedure

From: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>, Pilling, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Pilling@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 17, 2021 10:31:55 AM PST
Attachments: Comms Procedure.pptx

Morning,

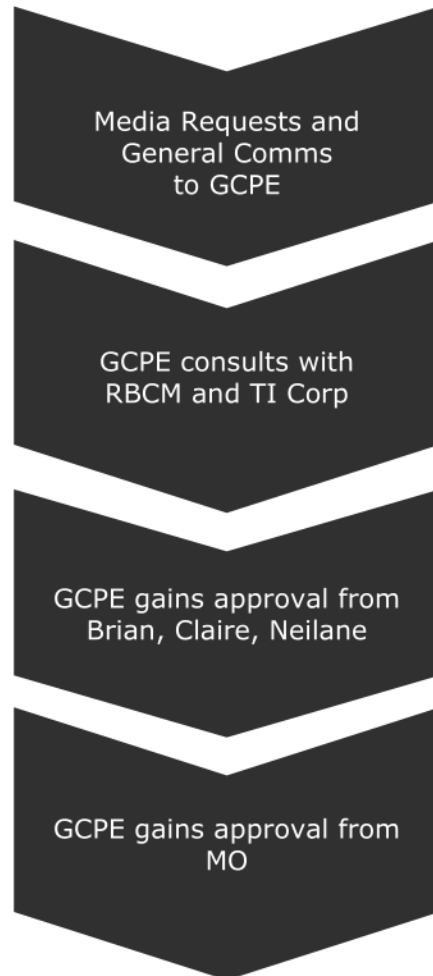
MMM expressed interest in a RBCM comms procedure/protocol yesterday. Attached is what we came up with together with TIC and RBCM.

Let me know if you have any edits/additions and we can add to the binder materials for Jan 6 for MMM to review.

Thanks
Carla

RBCM Modernization

Comms materials approval process



Media requests are forwarded to GCPE for coordination; general comms provided to GCPE minimally one week in advance, after RBCM and TI Corp co-operative engagement. GCPE to liaise with MO to determine best spokesperson

GCPE will consult with RBCM to confirm content/tone, TI Corp, Infrastructure BC to confirm project details are accurate

GCPE will correspond with ED, ADM, DM for editing and approvals

GCPE will correspond with MO for editing and final approval; will share final with RBCM, TI Corp, Infrastructure BC and program

RE: Time Sensitive > Updated Website Content for Dec. 31

From: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 29, 2021 1:52:15 PM PST
Thanks, and yes, agree

*Corinna Filion
Communications Director
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport*

250-882-0918

From: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 29, 2021 1:24 PM
To: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Time Sensitive > Updated Website Content for Dec. 31

Nothing to add from me. This is all based on our approved messaging.

We should meet early next week with issues and get to the bottom of how our comms are going to roll out on the main building.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 29, 2021, at 11:33 AM, Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Melissa, for your review, thoughts

C

*Corinna Filion
Communications Director
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport*

250-882-0918

From: Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 27, 2021 11:23 AM
To: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Time Sensitive > Updated Website Content for Dec. 31

My two cents embedded.

Brian Jonker
Executive Director
Arts and Culture
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
250 217-3991

COVID-19: We are committed to supporting B.C.'s artists and cultural organizations through this difficult time. This includes updating our policies and programs as necessary to match the challenges the sector is now facing. The most up-to-date information will always be posted on our dedicated [COVID 19 FAQ page](#) and individual program pages. Updates will also be announced on our [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) accounts.

From: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 24, 2021 8:16 AM
To: Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Time Sensitive > Updated Website Content for Dec. 31

Hi Brian, thoughts on this? I think they need to add something about community engagement on the new exhibits as well

C

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rich, Samantha RBCM:EX" <srich@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>
Date: December 23, 2021 at 2:28:24 PM PST
To: "Nessel, Jill GCPE:EX" <Jill.Nessel@gov.bc.ca>, "Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX" <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>, "Pilling, Lisa GCPE:EX" <Lisa.Pilling@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Drake, Tracey RBCM:EX" <tdrake@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>
Subject: Time Sensitive > Updated Website Content for Dec. 31

Hi everyone,

We have drafted revised web copy to reflect the gallery closures on the third floor as of 2nd Jan 2022.

To provide some context:

- The three gallery pages will be removed from the "exhibition" section of the website – as is standard practice - but they will still be published and accessible through the announcement/main third-floor closure page.
- The closure notice will go on top of the core galleries pages for the third floor galleries to begin with. We will not adjust or remove the content describing the galleries for the moment so we are not 'erasing' anything.
- The Nov 3rd announcement will live permanently in the RBCM press room.

The attached copy is with our Board for review and it is based on our previously approved messaging. If you could please review for approval by Thursday 30th December that would be hugely appreciated.

I'm aware with the holidays in the mix, this is limited time, however, we are hoping to post this end of day on Friday Jan 31st, or at least prior to opening on the morning of Sunday Jan 2nd for visitors.

Wishing you all the best, and a very happy holidays!

Warm regards,

Sam

Samantha Rich Corporate Communications Manager | Museum Operations

ROYAL BC MUSEUM
Traditional Territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations)
675 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC Canada V8W 9W2
T 250-208-9148
srich@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca | royalbcmuseum.bc.ca
Join us on: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Flickr](#) | [Instagram](#)

Have a whale of a time at our feature exhibition, *Orcas: Our Shared Future*, on now through March 31, 2022. Double the fun by combining your museum visit with an IMAX® Victoria showtime, now screening *Humpback Whales*.

FW: Weekly communications updates - RBCM

From: Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>
To: Avison, Claire TACS:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 6, 2022 10:36:24 AM PST
Attachments: s.13

Brian Jonker

Executive Director
Arts and Culture
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
250 217-3991

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From: Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 5, 2022 9:01 PM
To: Rich, Samantha RBCM:EX <srich@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>
Cc: Drake, Tracey RBCM:EX <tdrake@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>; Pilling, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Pilling@gov.bc.ca>; Nessel, Jill GCPE:EX <Jill.Nessel@gov.bc.ca>; Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Weekly communications updates - RBCM

Thanks Sam. Happy New Year

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 5, 2022, at 4:43 PM, Rich, Samantha RBCM:EX <srich@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi everyone,

Happy New Year!

We have updated the s.13 with the latest updates from RBCM. I have highlighted them in yellow for ease.

I have also attached an updated January communications snapshot, as we're delighted to share that BC's Marvellous Mushrooms travelling exhibition will now go to the Cowichan Valley Museum next week, before it proceeds on to Kelowna in March. They have paid to loan the exhibition and we will support them in communicating its presence.

If you have any questions, please do let me know.

Have a great evening!

Sam

Samantha Rich Corporate Communications Manager | Museum Operations

675 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC Canada V8W 9W2
T 250-208-9148
srich@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca | royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

Join us on: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Flickr](#) | [Instagram](#)

Have a whale of a time at our feature exhibition, *Orcas: Our Shared Future*, on now through March 31, 2022. Double the fun by combining your museum visit with an IMAX® Victoria showtime, now screening *Humpback Whales*.

Page 111 of 365 to/à Page 112 of 365

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Page 113 of 365

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.17

Page 114 of 365 to/à Page 117 of 365

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Communications Snapshot

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Website Updates Current travelling exhibitions	Saving Luna New Release Great Bear Rainforest		1 Closed
2 e-newsletter goes out Open 3 rd floor closure begins	3 IMAX schedule updated	4 World braille day – Orcas accessibility	5 National Bird Day	6 TACS New Release Warehouse RFQ	7	8
9	10	11 News Release (M) Travelling exhibitions BC's Marvellous Mushrooms	12	13	14 BC's Marvellous Mushrooms (M) TBC opens Cowichan Valley Museum *MLA Opp *Photo *Social media	15
16	17	18	19 News Release (M) Travelling exhibitions OLL Networking event CRB (M)	20 News Release Forest Floor Learning Event Backgrounder on our learning programs	21 Our Living Languages (M) opens Squamish Lilwat Cultural Centre *MLA Opp *Photo	22
23 Forest Floor Learning Event Galleries and online	24 News Release + social content Wooly's Birthday Wooly facts	25	26 Wooly's Birthday	27	28	29
30	31					

- Gold Mountain Dream – Fan Tan Alley TBC *maybe in time for lunar NY*
 - Event – Minister opportunity
 - News release including messages on Travelling Exhibitions
- Buster? Dinosaurs of BC development
- WhatsInsight

RE: RBCM narrative

From: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
To: Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 10, 2022 9:25:52 AM PST
Yeah okay, Let's leave it in for now. Thanks!

From: Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 10, 2022 9:22 AM
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: RBCM narrative

s.13

. I'll

send to Sarah, Time, Krystal after this then to Neilane - k?

*Corinna Fillion
Communications Director
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport*

250-882-0918

From: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 10, 2022 9:14 AM
To: Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: RBCM narrative

Hi, I had great weekend, thanks! I hope you did too!

s.13

Happy to chat, but definitely think this is the direction we need.

Thanks!

From: Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 10, 2022 9:05 AM
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RBCM narrative

Morning, hope you had a great weekend. s.13

s.13

*Corinna Fillion
Communications Director
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport*

250-882-0918

FW: Modernization Engagement stats since November 3, 2021

From: Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Pilling, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Pilling@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 10, 2022 9:35:50 AM PST
Attachments: Media and Public Responses to November 3 Announcement.pdf
FYI, they are sharing this with us weekly now.

C

Corinna Fillion
Communications Director
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

250-882-0918

From: Drake, Tracey RBCM:EX <tdrake@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>
Sent: January 10, 2022 9:15 AM
To: Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Fillion@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Pilling, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Pilling@gov.bc.ca>; Nessel, Jill GCPE:EX <Jill.Nessel@gov.bc.ca>; Rich, Samantha RBCM:EX <srich@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>
Subject: Modernization Engagement stats since November 3, 2021

s.13

We will continue to update this weekly and share with your team.

Thanks,
Tracey

Tracey Drake A/Head of Marketing, Communications and Business Development | Museum Operations

ROYAL BC MUSEUM

Traditional Territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations)
675 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC Canada V8W 9W2
T 250-883-8628

tdrake@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca | royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

Join us on: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Flickr](#) | [Instagram](#)

Have a whale of a time at our feature exhibition, *Orcas: Our Shared Future*, on now through March 31, 2022. Double the fun by combining your museum visit with an IMAX® Victoria showtime, now screening *Humpback Whales*.

Public Responses to the Third Floor Closure

November 3, 2021 – January 6, 2022

By Wesley MacInnis
Communications Specialist
January 7, 2022

Background

On November 3, 2021, the Royal BC Museum announced that it would begin closing the third-floor galleries in phases, leading up to a full closure of the third floor on January 2, 2022, to begin a process of decolonization.

Responses to this announcement from media professionals and members of the general public have been compiled and summarized in this report.

Quantitative Summary

Correspondence:

- 451 emails and letters received regarding the closure
- 95% negative, 5% positive or neutral

Social Media:

- 117 messages from Facebook and Instagram users regarding the closure
- 97% negative, 3% positive or neutral

News Media:

- 340 mentions of the closure in online news, radio and television segments
- 90% negative, 10% positive or neutral

Recent News Media

- January 4, 2022
 - **CKNW 980. News Talk** – Copyright
Copyright <http://my.tvey.es/p5B6H>
- December 30, 2021
 - **Times Colonist, Editorial:** Copyright
Copyright

<https://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/editorial-on-museum-issue-compromise-is-needed-but-not-likely-to-happen-4908741>

- December 29, 2021

- **Philadelphia Trumpet**, *A Canadian Nightmare at the Museum* – Copyright

Copyright <https://www.thetrumpet.com/25030-a-canadian-nightmare-at-the-museum>

- December 28, 2021

- **Newstalk 1010 CFRB**, *The Rush* – Copyright

Copyright <http://my.tvey.es/m3A4M>

- December 23, 2021

- **National Post**, *Top Canadian museum to be imminently gutted in the name of 'decolonization'* – Copyright

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/top-canadian-museum-to-be-immediately-gutted-in-the-name-of-decolonization>

FW: RBCM narrative to print

From: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
To: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 11, 2022 10:06:58 AM PST

s.13

FW: Report on Media and Public Responses to the Third Floor Closure (January 7-17)

From: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Pilling, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Pilling@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 18, 2022 3:32:56 PM PST
Attachments: Media and Public Responses (1-7-2022_1-17-2022) (2).pdf
FYI

Corinna Filion
Communications Director
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

250-882-0918

From: Drake, Tracey RBCM:EX <tdrake@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>
Sent: January 18, 2022 3:31 PM
To: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>; Pilling, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Pilling@gov.bc.ca>; Nessel, Jill GCPE:EX <Jill.Nessel@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Rich, Samantha RBCM:EX <srich@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>
Subject: Report on Media and Public Responses to the Third Floor Closure (January 7-17)

Good afternoon,

Please see attached. This is our most recent responses to third floor closure statistics. s.13

Thanks,
Tracey

Tracey Drake A/Head of Marketing, Communications and Business Development | Museum Operations

ROYAL BC MUSEUM

Traditional Territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations)
675 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC Canada V8W 9W2
T 250-883-8628

tdrake@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca | royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

Join us on: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Flickr](#) | [Instagram](#)

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Public Responses to the Third Floor Closure

January 7 – January 17, 2022

By Wesley MacInnis
Communications Specialist
January 18, 2022

Background

On November 3, 2021, the Royal BC Museum announced that it would begin closing the third-floor galleries in phases, leading up to a full closure of the third floor on January 2, 2022, to begin a process of decolonization.

Responses to this announcement from media professional and members of the general public have been compiled and summarized in this report.

Quantitative Summary

	This Period	Last Period	Total	Change	Rate Change
Correspondence	14	n/a	465	3%	n/a
Social Media	8	n/a	125	7%	n/a
News Media	13	n/a	353	4%	n/a

Correspondence:

- 465 emails and letters received regarding the closure
- 95% negative, 5% positive or neutral

Social Media:

- 125 messages from Facebook and Instagram users regarding the closure
- 97% negative, 3% positive or neutral

News Media:

- 353 mentions of the closure in online news, radio and television segments
- 90% negative, 10% positive or neutral

Recent News Media

- January 11, 2022

- **Times Colonist**, *Letters Jan. 11: Can Langham Court Theatre survive?; pubs get a break, gyms don't* – Copyright

Copyright <https://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/letters-jan-11-can-langham-court-theatre-survive-pubs-get-a-break-gyms-dont-4941767>

- January 8, 2022

- **Peninsula News Review**, *LETTER: Letter takes anti-colonial sentiment to the extreme* – Copyright

<https://www.peninsulanewsreview.com/opinion/letter-letter-takes-anti-colonial-sentiment-to-the-extreme/>

- **Victoria News**, *LETTER: Loss of RBCM exhibits a travesty* – Copyright

<https://www.vicnews.com/opinion/letter-loss-of-rbcm-exhibits-a-travesty/>

- January 7, 2022

- **Times Colonist**, *Obituary: Jean Jacques Andre was architect of Old Town, natural history, First Peoples exhibits at Royal B.C. Museum* – Copyright

Copyright

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/obituary-jean-jacques-andre-was-architect-of-old-town-natural-history-first-peoples-exhibits-at-royal-bc-museum-4931104>

- **Times Colonist**, *Letters Jan. 7: Reconciliation tax requires a vote; when 'heritage' trees become a headache* – Copyright
Copyright

<https://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/letters-jan-7-reconciliation-tax-requires-a-vote-when-heritage-trees-become-a-headache-4930984>

RBCM and s.13 IN

From: Avison, Claire TACS:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>
To: Pilling, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Pilling@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Shang, Cindy TACS:EX <Cindy.Shang@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 21, 2022 9:27:23 AM PST
Attachments: IN_RBCM_Modernization_DRAFT_Jan21.docx,
s.13

Hi Lisa – feedback for your consideration embedded in the attached thanks

Claire Avison (she/her) | Assistant Deputy Minister | Ministry of Tourism Arts Culture and Sport | Cell: 250-217-9059 | claire.avison@gov.bc.ca

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

ADVICE TO MINISTER

BACKGROUND

On September 18, 2020, the B.C. government announced the first phase of the Royal BC Museum Modernization project, the construction of the Collections and Research Building (CRB). The government has not yet made its decision on the scope of the redevelopment of the downtown RBCM location. The government anticipates making a final decision on that phase in 2022.

The B.C. government RBCM purchased an 8-acre parcel of land in the Royal Bay Development in Colwood for \$14.9 million. The 15,500 square-metre facility will use mass timber construction and meet CleanBC energy efficiency standards. Building construction will generate more than 950 direct and indirect good-paying jobs.

In Fall 2020 the government began preparing the site for construction. The project posted the request for qualifications (RFQ) in June of 2021 to secure a proponent to design and build the facility. The RFQ closed on Sept. 8, 2021 and three of the six respondents were shortlisted to participate in the request for proposal (RFP) stage which runs from November 2021 to June 2022. The three teams invited to participate were:

- Kinetic Construction Ltd. Smith Bros. & Wilson (B.C.) Ltd. and Wright Holdings Inc.
 - Diamond and Schmitt Architects, Inc.
 - Aspect Structural Engineers Canada Ltd.
- Ledcor Design-Build (B.C.) Inc. and Knappett Projects Inc.
 - John McAslan and Partners
 - Fast + Epp Structural Engineers Inc.
- Maple Reinders Constructors Ltd.
 - Michael Green Architecture Inc.
 - Equilibrium Consulting Inc.

Partial compensation in the amount of \$1 million will be paid to each unsuccessful proponent in accordance with the terms of the RFP and is intended to partially cover the costs to participate in the RFP process. This is standard business practice for major infrastructure design-build procurements, led by Infrastructure BC, to ensure robust competition and high quality, responsive submissions.

The government expects to break ground in fall 2022 and complete the CRB in winter 2024.

The museum's galleries were developed a half century ago and they do not accurately reflect the many people from diverse cultures, including Europeans, who have contributed to the province's history. In 2019, Government undertook a public engagement to inform the modernization of the museum resulting in British Columbians wanting changes that would ensure the stories of Indigenous peoples, and that of other cultural groups who have helped to build this beautiful province, are accurately reflected in the museum's exhibits.

On November 3, 2021, The Royal BC Museum announced that it would close sections of the third floor to start the process of decolonization in these galleries, in response to the call to action from Indigenous leaders to increase cultural safety and ensure the museum is a welcome place for everyone.

Full closure of the third floor occurred January 2, 2022. The news has generated substantial negative media attention and public reaction suggesting the museum is attempting to erase European settler history, both in mainstream media and on social media platforms.

Public Engagement

From April 1, 2019 to June 27, 2019, the B.C. government held a public engagement on RBCM's future. The feedback from the engagement helped inform the business case. The government held seven public meetings in five communities (Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna, Prince George and Duncan), and a

ADVICE TO MINISTER

province-wide virtual meeting. The government also hosted an engagement website that garnered a total of 5,182 visits and 177 online comments. In addition, on Sept. 5-6 and 10-11, 2019, RBCM led focused engagement sessions with Indigenous peoples.

The museum is currently in the planning stages of a formal province wide public outreach process which will begin in Spring 2022. The purpose of this community engagement is to inform the modernization process and the development of the new broader, inclusive narrative for the galleries.

Timeline

- Feb. 2019 - Commitment in Throne Speech
- April 1 - June 27, 2019 – Public Engagement
- July 22 - Sept. 11, 2019 - Indigenous Engagement (RBCM-led)
- Dec. 20, 2019 - Post both engagement reports to websites
- Feb. 2020 - Mentioned in Throne Speech
- July 8, 2020 - Treasury Board approval to purchase land in Colwood for CRB
- Aug. 31, 2020 - IMAX Victoria Purchase Announcement
- Sept. 18, 2020 - Announce Collections and Research Building
- Sept. 20, 2020 - OIC deposited for Transportation Infrastructure Corporation to undertake project management
- Oct. 2020 - Earthworks and surveying begins
- Dec. 17, 2020 - Purchase agreement closes
- June 24, 2021 – Post RFQ for Collections and Research Building construction/development
- June 30, 2021 - Completion of site earthworks
- Oct. 26, 2021 –Initial Draft design-build agreement and RFP documents issued to shortlisted RFQ teams

s.13

s.13

Communications:	Jill Nessel	250-880-3455
Program:	Brian Jonker	250-217-3991
Approvals (initials only)		
Program ED	ADM/DM	CD

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

RE: Urgent - Demolition of Royal BC Museum starts Jan 2

From: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>
To: Correspondence Services TACS:EX <TACS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>, Hiltz, Ellen TACS:EX <Ellen.Hiltz@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 26, 2022 9:30:08 AM PST

This one might need to include language to respond to the concerns around racism in the institution. I would leave it in the main inbox for now as it addresses different angles.

Thank you
Diego

From: Correspondence Services TACS:EX <TACS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 26, 2022 9:12 AM
To: Hiltz, Ellen TACS:EX <Ellen.Hiltz@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>; Correspondence Services TACS:EX <TACS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Urgent - Demolition of Royal BC Museum starts Jan 2

Hi Ellen and Diego,

That's probably correct however we are still waiting on instructions on how to action these and which ones MO wants included in the batch. Yes the batch log would be 43723 (no eApps yet).

Thanks!

Lindsay

From: Hiltz, Ellen TACS:EX <Ellen.Hiltz@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 26, 2022 8:52 AM
To: Correspondence Services TACS:EX <TACS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Urgent - Demolition of Royal BC Museum starts Jan 2

Morning Cathy,

I believe this would just get logged under the Batch CLIFF we have for RBCM (43723) and would receive our template RBCM response when it is finalized. Please correct me if I'm wrong, Diego.

Thanks,

Ellen Hiltz | Ministerial Advisor
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
P: 250-896-2064 E: Ellen.Hiltz@gov.bc.ca
Pronouns: she/hers

From: Correspondence Services TACS:EX <TACS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 26, 2022 8:23 AM
To: Hiltz, Ellen TACS:EX <Ellen.Hiltz@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>; Correspondence Services TACS:EX <TACS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Urgent - Demolition of Royal BC Museum starts Jan 2

Good morning Ellen/Diego,

Is the below something TACS can respond to?

Thank you,
Cathy Gao

From: AG Correspondence AG:EX <MAG.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 5:22 PM
To: Correspondence Services TACS:EX <TACS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Urgent - Demolition of Royal BC Museum starts Jan 2

Hi there, is this something your ministry can respond to?

From: Cheema, Haiqa AG:EX <Haiqa.Cheema@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 9:36 AM
To: AG Correspondence AG:EX <MAG.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Urgent - Demolition of Royal BC Museum starts Jan 2

Hi Candice,

Can we send this off to TAC correspondence team to see if they want to reply.

Haiqa

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Singh.MLA, Rachna" <Rachna.Singh.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Date: January 6, 2022 at 10:32:46 AM PST
To: "Cheema, Haiqa AG:EX" <Haiqa.Cheema@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Urgent - Demolition of Royal BC Museum starts Jan 2

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FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22
Sent: December 23, 2021 12:44 PM
To: Singh.MLA, Rachna <Rachna.Singh.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: Urgent - Demolition of Royal BC Museum starts Jan 2

Dear Ms. Singh,

I read the following article this morning and am very concerned. A Public Service Agency investigation into racism at the Royal BC Museum concluded "The Museum is a dysfunctional and 'toxic' workplace, characterized by a culture of fear and distrust,". Now the mismanagement is resulting in complete demolition of many exhibits including Chinatown and the First Nations Languages exhibit without any plan or budget for the replacement. As a crown corporation, the expectation will be for government to foot much of the bill. Without a plan in place, this seems to be incredibly wasteful. It seems the responsible path would be to delay demolition until stakeholders have agreed to a plan for the replacement and budget has been obtained.

This is probably wishful thinking but I am hoping that bringing this to your attention could result in some intervention by the Provincial Government. As mentioned, the article notes a start date for demolition of January 2nd.

<https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvancouver.sun.com%2Fopinion%2Ftop-canadian-museum-to-be-immediately-gutted-in-the-name-of-decolonization%2Fwcm%2Fc0112e38-d593-4808-ab51-aababe2ca881&data=04%7C01%7CHaiqa.Cheema%40gov.bc.ca>

%7Ce1c39d69eb62409862e908d9d142edf0%7C6fdb52003d0d4a8ab036d3685e359adc
%7C0%7C0%7C637770907651636492%7CUnknown
%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D
%7C3000&sdata=mkSsz0xZqQKAAZ2TtFAe978hVpBNI7KVf%2BBxIPMXzsw%3D&reserved=0

Have a Merry Christmas,
s.22

Re: Comment/Advice: RBCM Lettermail

From: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>
To: Correspondence Services TACS:EX <TACS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hiltz, Ellen TACS:EX <Ellen.Hiltz@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 27, 2022 1:49:18 PM PST
Attachments: s.22

Same as with the rest. Op-Ed from Minister Mark should be approved today. That will be available for staff and CU to use to draw language from to create template and individualize responses. Hoping to have good news by end of day today.

Thank you,
Diego

On Jan 27, 2022, at 1:14 PM, Correspondence Services TACS:EX
<TACS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Ellen/Diego,

PO redirected the attached to TACS regarding RBCM. TACS was also cc'd on this letter (which you may have received in mail). Please advise what action TACS would like to take.

Thank you,
Cathy Gao

From: Watson, Amanda PREM:EX <Amanda.Watson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022 1:06 PM
To: Correspondence Services TACS:EX <TACS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RBCM Lettermail

Hello,

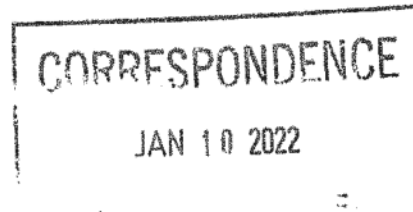
Please find attached lettermail concerning the RBCM. I see that TACS was cc'd.

Thanks,

Amanda Watson, MLIS
Correspondence Officer | Correspondence Branch | Office of the Premier
P: (778) 698-8211 | she/her

s.22

Office of the Premier
PO Box 9041
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E1



Attention: Premier John Horgan

Dear Premier Horgan:

Subject: Royal BC Museum Closures

It has come to my attention that the Royal BC Museum intends to permanently close the third floor galleries early in January in a process of “decolonization” resulting from recent criticism.

Please register my complete and utter opposition to this action. The museum is recognized as a world class exhibition and is a point of pride for the Province. In my view, the third floor exhibitions are a simple representation of BC’s rich history and not representative in the least of “colonialism” in the negative sense forwarded by the museum’s critics. It appears to me that the decision to close the exhibits for an indefinite period is poorly thought out and is just a knee-jerk reaction to anarchistic demands from a few critics. It is particularly galling that the closure is proposed in the absence of any plan, budget or timeline to replace the exhibits.

As Premier I demand that you take action to reverse this incomprehensible decision and direct Minister Melanie Mark to review the capabilities of current RBCM Board members and consider replacing some or all of them with more qualified people. Clearly the current Board members are incompetent or spineless, or both.

I don’t get angry often but this time I’m spitting nails. Be advised I have been an NDP supporter for decades but this ridiculous action has caused me to reassess my political loyalties.

Sincerely yours,
s.22

Cc Hon. Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

Service plan

From: Stenson, Erika RBCM:EX <EStenson@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>
To: Jonker, Brian TACS:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>, Avison, Claire TACS:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 28, 2022 4:42:09 PM PST
Attachments: 2022 - 23 RBCM Service Plan Jan 28SR.docx, 2022 - 23 RBCM Service Plan Jan 28_Clean.docx

Happy Friday

Attached are two copies of the SP. A clean version for ease of read and review, and a tracked changes version with all the various edits, comments and notes by everyone. This is going to the board per my discussion with Claire. They understand this will be a process where the board review stream will run concurrently with the ministerial review/CABRO/MFIN final review stream.

We can touch base on how things are coming together early next week.

Have a good weekend,

Erika

Erika Stenson A/Vice President, Museum Operations | Executive

ROYAL BC MUSEUM

Traditional Territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations)

675 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC Canada V8W 9W2

T 250 886-2521

EStenson@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca | royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

Join us on: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Flickr](#) | [Instagram](#)

Have a whale of a time at our feature exhibition, *Orcas: Our Shared Future*, on now through March 31, 2022. Double the fun by combining your museum visit with an IMAX[®] Victoria showtime, now screening *Humpback Whales*.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.17

FW: s.13

- RBCM

From: Stenson, Erika RBCM:EX <EStenson@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>
To: Avison, Claire TACS:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 3, 2022 10:12:47 AM PST
Attachments: s.13

Approved by the board SP with all revisions from TACS and new financials (which are going to board this morning for approval).

Cheers

From: Rich, Samantha RBCM:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 3, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Denis, Alex TACS:EX <Alex.Denis@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Stenson, Erika RBCM:EX <EStenson@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>
Subject: 's.13 - RBCM

Hi Alex,

Hope you're doing well this morning!

Please find attached the updated s.13 – I know you requested a doc with fully tracked changes, and comments resolved (attached), however I have also included a clean version that I used to check through the implemented changes – thought it could be useful.

Hopefully this is all clear. If you have any questions on any tweaks here, or anything I have overlooked, I am at my desk through until 12 and can discuss as necessary or address anything further immediately. Fingers crossed we're nearly there.

Best,

Sam

Samantha Rich Corporate Communications Manager | Museum Operations

ROYAL BC MUSEUM

Traditional Territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations)

675 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC Canada V8W 9W2

T 250-208-9148

srich@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca | royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

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Have a whale of a time at our feature exhibition, *Orcas: Our Shared Future*, on now through March 31, 2022. Double the fun by combining your museum visit with an IMAX® Victoria showtime, now screening *Humpback Whales*.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.17

Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX

From: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX
Sent: November 4, 2021 10:48 AM
To: Popham.MLA, Lana LASS:EX
Cc: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX
Subject: CASEWORK: Closing of Old Town in the RBC museum (Minister Popham)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CASEWORK

Hi Jesse,

Thank you for reaching out, and hope all is well. Happy to share some KM's for you to include in a response to Minister Popham's constituent.

KM's:

Will there be further closures in the future?

- The narrative of the galleries on the third floor celebrates a European-settler view of what is now British Columbia, and is long overdue for updates.
- The work to include under-represented voices and contemporary stories of BC begins on the third floor.

What other steps out of the report to BC has the museum undertaken?

- In collaboration with our Indigenous Advisory & Advocacy Committee the museum is reviewing every aspect of the organization from governance at the board level, staffing, HR policies, to collections, research, exhibitions, and inclusion of under-represented voices.

What will the new galleries look like?

- The vision for updated, inclusive galleries will be informed by consultation with stakeholders including community partners.
- We will ensure Indigenous voices are heard and included, and the interpretation of Indigenous cultures is led by Indigenous communities.
- We will seek out diverse perspectives on BC identity—especially underrepresented voices—to broaden historical narratives and foster inclusivity.

When will community consultation on the new narratives start?

- Some initial consultation has been undertaken, and we will be reaching out to communities across the province to ensure that the experiences and contributions of contemporary Indigenous people, as well as Canadians from other underrepresented groups, as the project continues.

Are you closing the third-floor galleries due to repatriation?

- No, the galleries are not closing due to repatriation, they are closing as part of our efforts around decolonization and as a first step towards broader and more inclusive narratives.
- The Indigenous Collections and Repatriation department (ICAR) will continue to work through repatriation requests and work with Indigenous communities.

What is next?

- The next steps are for the third-floor galleries to be deconstructed and decanted with artifacts being returned to collections for care and conservation treatment.
- Concurrently, we'll determine a process for community outreach and engagement to hear the diverse perspectives on BC identity, that will help to shape the future narratives.

Quote from RBCM Acting CEO Daniel Muzyka

"Decolonization of the museum's galleries is important and long overdue," says acting CEO Daniel Muzyka. "As part of our work to implement modernized museum practices, in particular our efforts around decolonization, we will be closing the third-floor so we can decant our galleries. This is necessary to begin the long-term work of creating new narratives that include under-represented voices and reflect the lived experiences and contemporary stories of the people in BC."

Hope this helps, please let me know if you require any additional information, always happy to assist.

Kenton Duncan | Executive Assistant to the Hon. Melanie Mark
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
P: 604-790-2740 E: Kenton.duncan@gov.bc.ca
Pronouns: He/Him

From: Popham.MLA, Lana <Lana.Popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: November 4, 2021 9:22 AM
To: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fw: Closing of Old Town in the RBC museum

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Kenton,

I hope you're enjoying this rainy November.

Do you folks have any relevant KMs that we could use in responding to the constituent below?

Thank you,

Jesse Green (he/him) | Constituency Assistant | Lana Popham, MLA for Saanich South
Office: 250.479.4154 | 260 – 4243 Glanford Ave., Victoria, BC V8Z 4B9 | Jesse.Green@leg.bc.ca
Sign-up for our E-News [HERE](#) | Follow Lana on Facebook [HERE](#) | [Saanich South website](#)



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From: s.22
Sent: 04 November 2021 00:38
To: Popham.MLA, Lana <Lana.Popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: Closing of Old Town in the RBC museum

Honourable Lana Popham,

I am dismayed that the interim director of the RBC museum has decided to close the exhibits at the RBCM which portray BC's history with the reasoning of decolonization. Interim directors are interim because they are not qualified for the job... recruit an actual director then make decisions.

The Old town depicts history, a history which did happen, and these are very important events which shaped this province. Removing these exhibits from the museum is simply Orwellian. How can we learn from that past if we do not acknowledge it. s.22

s.22

If you want to de-colonize the RBCM remove the R not the town. And perhaps acknowledge the strong presence Metis people played in the gold rush and the settling of BC. Multiple lenses are the correct way to present, not one lens.

s.22

Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX

From: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX
Sent: January 11, 2022 10:41 AM
To: Leonard.MLA, Ronna-Rae LASS:EX
Subject: RE: Royal BC Museum

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Completed, CASEWORK

Hi Leanne,

Happy new years sorry for the delay in response s.22
you did not receive it I have included it below.

This information was sent to caucus but incase

For now any questions your constituents/stakeholders have, you will likely find an answer for in this FAQ that was developed between the museum and our MO/Comms team. As we speak, we are working on a further response from the minister to folks who have written to government with concerns about the 3rd floor. We are also considering a briefing for caucus and CAs, please stay tune for all of those pieces.

FAQ: <https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/third-floor-galleries-closed-modernization#faq>

Best regards,
Kenton.

From: Leonard.MLA, Ronna-Rae <Ronna-Rae.Leonard.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: January 10, 2022 3:01 PM
To: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Royal BC Museum

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Kenton,

Do you have any key messages for the removal of Old Town display from the RBCM?

Thanks, and regards,

Leanne

Leanne Rathje - she/her | Constituency Assistant to
Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA for Courtenay-Comox
Leanne.rathje@leg.bc.ca | 437 5th St, Courtenay BC
Ph: 250-703-2410

THE OFFICE REMAINS OPEN TO ASSIST BY PHONE OR EMAIL

It is a privilege to live and work on the traditional lands of the K'omoks First Nations.

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Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX

From: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX
Sent: January 11, 2022 11:08 AM
To: Stechishin, Claire LASS:EX
Subject: s.13

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CASEWORK, Completed

Hi Claire,

My apologies, your email got grouped into a different thread. I will look into the status of the grant.
Best regards,

Kenton.

From: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX
Sent: January 11, 2022 10:43 AM
To: Stechishin, Claire LASS:EX <Claire.Stechishin@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: s.13

Hi Claire,

Happy new year's, sorry for the delay in response as s.22
you did not receive it I have included it below.

This information was sent to caucus but in case

For now any questions your constituents/stakeholders have, you will likely find an answer for in this FAQ that was developed between the museum and our MO/Comms team. As we speak, we are working on a further response from the minister to folks who have written to government with concerns about the 3rd floor. We are also considering a briefing for caucus and CAs, please stay tune for all of those pieces.

FAQ: <https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/third-floor-galleries-closed-modernization#faq>

Best regards,
Kenton.

From: Stechishin, Claire <Claire.Stechishin@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: January 5, 2022 1:00 PM
To: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: s.13

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Good afternoon Kenton,

Adam recently met with constituents who work with s.13; s.17 They have applied for a grants.13; s.17 Could you let me know what the status is with this grant process right now (in review, applicant notified, etc.), as they wanted us to follow up about it. Thanks!

Cheers,

Claire Stechishin (she/her) | Constituency Assistant | Office of Adam Walker, MLA

T: 250-248-2687 | E: Claire.Stechishin@leg.bc.ca | Parksville - Qualicum

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional lands of the K'omoks, Qualicum, Snaw'naw'as, Snuneymuxw, and Tla'amin First Nations.

Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX

From: Routledge.MLA, Janet <Janet.Routledge.mla@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: January 13, 2022 3:12 PM
To: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX
Subject: RE: please do not allow BC Museum exhibits to be dismantled

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: CASEWORK

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Thanks so much Kenton, I had not seen that info, really appreciate you sharing it!
Nyiri

From: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 13, 2022 3:11 PM
To: Routledge.MLA, Janet <Janet.Routledge.mla@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: please do not allow BC Museum exhibits to be dismantled

Hi Nyiri,

Happy new year's, sorry for the delay in response. This information was sent to caucus but in case you did not receive it I have included it below.

For now any questions your constituents/stakeholders have, you will likely find an answer for in this FAQ that was developed between the museum and our MO/Comms team. As we speak, we are working on a further response from the minister to folks who have written to government with concerns about the 3rd floor. We are also considering a briefing for caucus and CAs, please stay tune for all of those pieces. Please use the FAQ below to answer any constituent questions.

FAQ: <https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/third-floor-galleries-closed-modernization#faq>

If you have any further questions you can reach out to me any time.
Best regards,

Kenton.

From: Routledge.MLA, Janet <Janet.Routledge.mla@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: January 13, 2022 2:52 PM
To: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: please do not allow BC Museum exhibits to be dismantled

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hello Diego,

Following up below 😊

Nyiri -

From: Routledge.MLA, Janet
Sent: January 7, 2022 2:11 PM
To: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: please do not allow BC Museum exhibits to be dismantled

Hello Diego!

I hope you are doing well. Do we have any info about royal BC museum's plan to dismantle it's 3rd floor exhibit? Any messaging on that? I've so far received this email, and a voicemail from another constituent.

Sincerely,

Nyiri Karakas
Constituency Assistant
Office of MLA Janet Routledge (Burnaby North)
P: 604-775-0778 | F: 604-775-0833 | 1833 Willingdon Ave. Burnaby, BC V5C 5R3

Burnaby is located on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hə́n q̓ əmín əm̓ and Skwx̓ wú7mesh speaking peoples. I am grateful for the opportunity to be on this shared territory.



From: s.22
Sent: January 1, 2022 1:49 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Routledge.MLA, Janet <Janet.Routledge.mla@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: please do not allow BC Museum exhibits to be dismantled

Dear Premier Horgan,

I know this has been a horrible and extremely hectic last two months for you, and I feel for you, and all the crises you have overseen in BC of late.

However, I was shocked to learn today that I'd missed viewing the (Royal) BC Museum's third floor exhibits before they are closed and possibly dismantled!

I do not believe there has been enough consultation for an Acting board of this museum to make such drastic moves. These exhibits have continued to win international awards in recent years, despite their age. Their ability to immerse and transport visitors is truly exceptional, their attention to detail astounding.

The old town, the ship, the industries, help tell the stories of people and times in BC's past. Some of those parts are colonial because the history of BC is colonial, and racist, and misogynist, etc. That doesn't mean we don't show it. Voices that are not represented can and should be represented and added.

Please don't allow interim leadership of this important cultural institution to make long term radical decisions without proper consultation with the people of our province. The train station, the Chinatown, the captain's quarters, the cannery, all tell important parts of BC and human history, and the hard, and sometimes misguided, work of our ancestors.

Sincerely,

s.22

Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX

From: Rankin.MLA, Murray <Murray.Rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: January 13, 2022 5:20 PM
To: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX
Subject: RE: Royal BC Museum Emails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Completed, CASEWORK

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Kenton,

I can definitely send something over! I haven't written it up yet but should have something later tomorrow or Monday and will send it your way when it's finished.

Thanks,
Astra

From: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 13, 2022 3:05 PM
To: Rankin.MLA, Murray <Murray.Rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Royal BC Museum Emails

Hi Astra,

Would your office be okay sending over your email template for the RBCM third floor closure? We have had a number of CO's reach out and thought it might be helpful to your fellow CA's to share what you have made 😊.

Best regards,
Kenton.

From: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX
Sent: January 13, 2022 12:17 PM
To: Rankin, Murray LASS:EX <Murray.Rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Royal BC Museum Emails

Hi Astra,

Sounds like a great idea, you are good to send.
Thanks for checking.

Kenton.

From: Rankin.MLA, Murray <Murray.Rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: January 13, 2022 12:14 PM
To: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Royal BC Museum Emails

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Kenton,

Thanks so much for this! I was gonna come up with a template style response to our constituents who have written in about this, mostly just directing them to this FAQ and restating some of what is in there. Should I send it over to you to check over/approve before we use it, or are we ok to go ahead with it if it's just using the info that's already on the RBCM website?

Thanks,
Astra

From: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 11, 2022 10:44 AM
To: Rankin.MLA, Murray <Murray.Rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Royal BC Museum Emails

Hi Astra,

Happy new year's, sorry for the delay in response s.22
you did not receive it I have included it below.

This information was sent to caucus but in case

For now any questions your constituents/stakeholders have, you will likely find an answer for in this FAQ that was developed between the museum and our MO/Comms team. As we speak, we are working on a further response from the minister to folks who have written to government with concerns about the 3rd floor. We are also considering a briefing for caucus and CAs, please stay tune for all of those pieces.

FAQ: <https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/third-floor-galleries-closed-modernization#faq>

Best regards,
Kenton.

From: Rankin.MLA, Murray <Murray.Rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: January 4, 2022 1:59 PM
To: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Royal BC Museum Emails

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Kenton,

Hope you're doing well and had a good holiday season 😊 Over the holidays our office got a number of emails from constituents with concerns about the changes to the Royal BC Museum, the Old Town exhibits in particular, that the

museum has said it will be undertaking in order to better reflect BC's history. I believe Minister Mark/TACS has been copied on some of these emails and got additional emails like this I'm sure. Just wondering if you have any messaging that you can share to help us respond to these emails we're getting, but totally no problem if you don't have any, I think I can put something together pretty easily with the RBCM's statements too, just wanted to check with you first!

Thanks,
Astra

Astra Lund-Phillips She/Her
Constituency Assistant to the Honourable Murray Rankin, Q.C.
MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head
P: 250-472-8528 | E: Murray.Rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca
219 – 3930 Shelbourne St. Victoria, BC V8P 5P6
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

The Oak Bay-Gordon Head Constituency Office recognizes that we operate on the territory of the Lekwungen people, now known as the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The above message contains confidential information intended for a specified individual and purpose. The information is private and protected by law. Any copying or disclosure of this transmission by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and delete this message and any attachments from your system. Thank you.

Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX

From: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX
Sent: January 21, 2022 11:49 AM
To: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX
Cc: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX
Subject: RBCM op-ed Jan 2022
Attachments: RBCM op-ed Jan 2022.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

For the binder – this is comms version of the op-ed. There is time to workshop it, but wanted MMM to review and see if it was close enough to what she had shared earlier this week.

Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX

From: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX
Sent: January 30, 2022 1:25 PM
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX
Cc: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX
Subject: Re: KMQA_RBCM Closure and Modernization_DRAFT_Jan28_JN
Attachments: s.13

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Completed

We will work on it asap!

Thank you,
Diego

On Jan 29, 2022, at 2:31 PM, Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

I forgot to remind you to get these KMs to south island MLAs. The KM QA should go to EAs.

We also need to follow up and see if caucus wants a briefing.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX" <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
Date: January 28, 2022 at 4:16:01 PM PST
To: "Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX" <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>, "Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX" <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Cardona, Diego TACS:EX" <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>, "Pilling, Lisa GCPE:EX" <Lisa.Pilling@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: KMQA_RBCM Closure and Modernization_DRAFT_Jan28_JN

KM/QA, RBCM narrative and op-ed attached

Cardona, Diego TACS:EX

From: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX
Sent: January 25, 2022 12:38 PM
To: Correspondence Services TACS:EX
Cc: Hiltz, Ellen TACS:EX
Subject: Re: RBCM incomings management
Attachments: s.13

Hi,
s.13

Thank you very much,
Diego

On Jan 25, 2022, at 8:42 AM, Correspondence Services TACS:EX <TACS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi,

In the meantime, CU has been instructed by DMO to work on two of these so CU needs to proceed with
s.13

Thanks!

Lindsay

From: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 24, 2022 10:11 AM
To: Hiltz, Ellen TACS:EX <Ellen.Hiltz@gov.bc.ca>; Chauvin, Lindsay JERI:EX <Lindsay.Chauvin@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Correspondence Services TACS:EX <TACS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: RBCM incomings management

s.13

Thank you,
Diego

From: Hiltz, Ellen TACS:EX <Ellen.Hiltz@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 24, 2022 10:05 AM
To: Chauvin, Lindsay JERI:EX <Lindsay.C Chauvin@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>; Correspondence Services TACS:EX <TACS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: RBCM incomings management

Hi Lindsay,

s.13

Diego, do you know more on this/have a better answer for Lindsay?

Thanks!

Ellen Hiltz | Ministerial Advisor
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
P: 250-896-2064 E: Ellen.Hiltz@gov.bc.ca
Pronouns: she/hers

From: Chauvin, Lindsay JERI:EX <Lindsay.C Chauvin@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 24, 2022 9:50 AM
To: Hiltz, Ellen TACS:EX <Ellen.Hiltz@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>; Correspondence Services TACS:EX <TACS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RBCM incomings management

Hi,

s.13

Do we have any feedback yet from Minister? Can either of you spare a few mins to discuss?

Sincerely,

Lindsay Chauvin
Acting Manager, Client Relations
Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation
and Minister of State for Trade
Ministry of Labour
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

T: 250 356-5171

Cardona, Diego TACS:EX

From: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX
Sent: January 24, 2022 12:45 PM
To: Hiltz, Ellen TACS:EX
Subject: RE: CALL FOR RECORDS - New FOI Request: TAC-2022-20229 (Nov 4 - Dec 31, 2021 Redevelopment of Royal BC Museum's downtown site) | Please respond by: Jan 25th
Attachments: Call for Records Minister Inbox January 2022.pdf

Hi Ellen,

Attached are the Minister's inbox records matching this request.

Thank you,
Diego

From: Hiltz, Ellen TACS:EX <Ellen.Hiltz@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 24, 2022 12:35 PM
To: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: CALL FOR RECORDS - New FOI Request: TAC-2022-20229 (Nov 4 - Dec 31, 2021 Redevelopment of Royal BC Museum's downtown site) | Please respond by: Jan 25th

Nov 4 – Dec 31, 2021

From: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 19, 2022 1:07 PM
To: Hiltz, Ellen TACS:EX <Ellen.Hiltz@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: CALL FOR RECORDS - New FOI Request: TAC-2022-20229 (Nov 4 - Dec 31, 2021 Redevelopment of Royal BC Museum's downtown site) | Please respond by: Jan 25th

From: FOI Economy Sector MUNI:EX <FOI.Inbox@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 19, 2022 9:04 AM
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>; Berkes, Andrea TACS:EX <Andrea.Berkes@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wood, Chelsea TACS:EX <Chelsea.Wood@gov.bc.ca>; FOI Economy Sector MUNI:EX <FOI.Inbox@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: CALL FOR RECORDS - New FOI Request: TAC-2022-20229 (Nov 4 - Dec 31, 2021 Redevelopment of Royal BC Museum's downtown site) | Please respond by: Jan 25th

Good morning,

Please forward the responsive records to our team FOI inbox at FOI.Inbox@gov.bc.ca. Response is requested by:
Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture, and Sport has received the following new request (applicant type: Individual):

All documents (including emails, issues notes/briefing materials, meeting notes/minutes, and contracts) related to the redevelopment of the Royal BC Museum's downtown site. This includes but is not limited to the RBCM Business Case Briefings on Nov. 17, 23, and 26, an RBCM Tour on Nov. 18, and the Nov. 9 and Nov. 24 meetings with RBCM CEO Dan Muzyka. Limit search to the Minister's and Deputy Minister's Offices.

(Date Range for Record Search: From 11/4/2021 To 12/31/2021) Date Format is MM/DD/YYYY

***A previous request was sent from the same applicant (TAC-2022-20099) but with a different date range (Feb 9 – Nov 3, 2021)**

Please note:

- Associated requests: TAC-2022-20099
- Please gather records as you normally would, in their original format
- **If you believe this Call for Records should be directed to someone other than those it has been addressed, please advise**
- If you expect this search for records to take more than 3 hours, please do not proceed. Contact our office immediately
- If a fee estimate is required, you do not need to provide a time estimate for electronic records. Please provide the number of files and IAO will calculate the time required for consideration of a fee
- Identify consultations that may be required

Thank you,

Luke Rioux
FOI Analyst | Information Management and Strategic Initiatives
Management Services Division

Providing service to:
Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery & Innovation
Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture & Sport
Ministry of Labour

Cardona, Diego TACS:EX

From: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX
Sent: January 19, 2022 10:39 AM
To: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX; Purdy, Sandra TACS:EX; Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX; Flesh, Cindy TACS:EX
Cc: Hiltz, Ellen TACS:EX
Subject: RE: CALL FOR RECORDS *Action required*
Attachments: s.13

Hi folks,

Records attached.

Thanks,
Melissa

From: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 19, 2022 9:58 AM
To: Purdy, Sandra TACS:EX <Sandra.Purdy@gov.bc.ca>; Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>; Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>; Flesh, Cindy TACS:EX <Cindy.Flesh@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hiltz, Ellen TACS:EX <Ellen.Hiltz@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: CALL FOR RECORDS *Action required*

Hi Team,

I have no records regarding the subject matter during the dates requested. I will speak with Minister Mark when she is in the office.

Thank you,
Diego

From: Purdy, Sandra TACS:EX <Sandra.Purdy@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 18, 2022 11:54 AM
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>; Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>; Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>; Flesh, Cindy TACS:EX <Cindy.Flesh@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hiltz, Ellen TACS:EX <Ellen.Hiltz@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: CALL FOR RECORDS *Action required*

NO RECORDS FOR ME

From: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 18, 2022 11:51 AM
To: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>; Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>; Flesh, Cindy TACS:EX <Cindy.Flesh@gov.bc.ca>; Purdy, Sandra TACS:EX <Sandra.Purdy@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hiltz, Ellen TACS:EX <Ellen.Hiltz@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: CALL FOR RECORDS *Action required*

Hi all,

Please search your emails for the request below. Return your relevant records to Ellen by the end of day tomorrow.

Diego – can you please search MMM's email tomorrow?

Thanks,
Melissa

From: FOI Economy Sector MUNI:EX <FOI.Inbox@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 13, 2022 2:21 PM
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>; Berkes, Andrea TACS:EX <Andrea.Berkes@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: FOI Economy Sector MUNI:EX <FOI.Inbox@gov.bc.ca>; Wood, Chelsea TACS:EX <Chelsea.Wood@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: CALL FOR RECORDS - New FOI Request: TAC-2022-20099 (Redevelopment of Royal BC Museum's downtown site) | Please respond by: Jan 21st

Good afternoon,

Please forward the responsive records to our team FOI inbox at FOI.Inbox@gov.bc.ca. Response is requested by: **Friday, January 21, 2022.**

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture, and Sport has received the following new request (applicant type: Individual):

Documents (including emails, issues notes/briefing materials, meeting notes/minutes, and contracts) related to the redevelopment of the Royal BC Museum's downtown site. Limit search to the Minister's and Deputy Minister's Offices.

(Date Range for Record Search: **From 2/9/2021 To 11/3/2021**) Date Format is MM/DD/YYYY

Please note:

- Please gather records as you normally would, in their original format
- **If you believe this Call for Records should be directed to someone other than those it has been addressed, please advise**
- If you expect this search for records to take more than 3 hours, please do not proceed. Contact our office immediately
- If a fee estimate is required, you do not need to provide a time estimate for electronic records. Please provide the number of files and IAO will calculate the time required for consideration of a fee
- Identify consultations that may be required

Thank you,

Luke Rioux
FOI Analyst | Information Management and Strategic Initiatives
Management Services Division

Providing service to:
Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery & Innovation
Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture & Sport
Ministry of Labour

Cardona, Diego TACS:EX

From: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX
Sent: January 13, 2022 2:53 PM
To: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX
Subject: FW: please do not allow BC Museum exhibits to be dismantled

Please follow up!

From: Routledge.MLA, Janet <Janet.Routledge.mla@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: January 13, 2022 2:52 PM
To: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: please do not allow BC Museum exhibits to be dismantled

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hello Diego,

Following up below 😊

Nyiri -

From: Routledge.MLA, Janet
Sent: January 7, 2022 2:11 PM
To: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: please do not allow BC Museum exhibits to be dismantled

Hello Diego!

I hope you are doing well. Do we have any info about royal BC museum's plan to dismantle it's 3rd floor exhibit? Any messaging on that? I've so far received this email, and a voicemail from another constituent.

Sincerely,

Nyiri Karakas
Constituency Assistant
Office of MLA Janet Routledge (Burnaby North)
P: 604-775-0778 | F: 604-775-0833 | 1833 Willingdon Ave. Burnaby, BC V5C 5R3

Burnaby is located on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hə́n̓ q̓ əmín̓ əm̓ and Skwx̣wú7mesh speaking peoples. I am grateful for the opportunity to be on this shared territory.



From: s.22
Sent: January 1, 2022 1:49 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Routledge.MLA, Janet <Janet.Routledge.mla@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: please do not allow BC Museum exhibits to be dismantled

Dear Premier Horgan,

I know this has been a horrible and extremely hectic last two months for you, and I feel for you, and all the crises you have overseen in BC of late.

However, I was shocked to learn today that I'd missed viewing the (Royal) BC Museum's third floor exhibits before they are closed and possibly dismantled!

I do not believe there has been enough consultation for an Acting board of this museum to make such drastic moves. These exhibits have continued to win international awards in recent years, despite their age. Their ability to immerse and transport visitors is truly exceptional, their attention to detail astounding.

The old town, the ship, the industries, help tell the stories of people and times in BC's past. Some of those parts are colonial because the history of BC is colonial, and racist, and misogynist, etc. That doesn't mean we don't show it. Voices that are not represented can and should be represented and added.

Please don't allow interim leadership of this important cultural institution to make long term radical decisions without proper consultation with the people of our province. The train station, the Chinatown, the captain's quarters, the cannery, all tell important parts of BC and human history, and the hard, and sometimes misguided, work of our ancestors.

s.22

s.22

Cardona, Diego TACS:EX

From: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX
Sent: January 10, 2022 11:35 AM
To: Purdy, Sandra TACS:EX
Cc: Correspondence Services TACS:EX
Subject: New Logs/Batches

Hi Sandra,

I flag the one email about the RBCM that's specific to Chinese heritage to be actioned as Staff reply with MO approval. The rest can all be put into a new batch. We can call it " RBCM Third Floor Closure 2022". Correspondence folks can your confirm that it's okay for us to call that way. Can we also make a new batch for old-growth called "Old Growth Protection 2022", there is a few in the email. Again if you folks can confirm if that name is ok – appreciate it.

Sandra minister wants me to print all the RBCM emails, so when the batch is done let me know my friend – thanks in advance.

Thank you,
Diego

Cardona, Diego TACS:EX

From: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX
Sent: January 6, 2022 1:07 PM
To: Sheila.Malcolmson.mla@leg.bc.ca
Subject: Fwd: CASEWORK: RMBC 3rd Floor Closure (Caucus)

More coming soon!

Thank you,
Diego

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Cardona, Diego TACS:EX" <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>
Date: January 5, 2022 at 10:42:28 AM PST
To: "Vasilev, Susan LASS:EX" <Susan.Vasilev@leg.bc.ca>, "Luton, John R LASS:EX" <John.Luton@leg.bc.ca>, "Cloutier, Jessica LASS:EX" <Jessica.Cloutier@leg.bc.ca>, "Djonlic, Matt FIN:EX" <Matt.Djonlic@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX" <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>, "Swaich, Anmol LASS:EX" <Anmol.Swaich@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: CASEWORK: RMBC 3rd Floor Closure (Caucus)

Hi Folks,

Just including everybody in one massive email.

For now any questions your constituents/stakeholders have, you will likely find an answer for in this FAQ that was developed between the museum and our MO/Comms team. As we speak, we are working on a further response from the minister to folks who have written to government with concerns about the 3rd floor. We are also considering a briefing for caucus and CAs, please stay tune for all of those pieces.

FAQ: <https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/third-floor-galleries-closed-modernization#faq>

Thank you,
Diego

From: Vasilev, Susan <Susan.Vasilev@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: January 4, 2022 3:26 PM
To: Luton, John R LASS:EX <John.Luton@leg.bc.ca>
Cc: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>; Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>; Swaich, Anmol LASS:EX <Anmol.Swaich@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: RMBC 3rd Floor Closure

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi John – that's a local issue; I don't have messaging on it.

I've copied the two EAS in TACS to ask that they send KMs on this.

Happy New Year!

Susan

From: Luton, John <John.Luton@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: January 4, 2022 3:20 PM
To: Vasilev, Susan <Susan.Vasilev@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: Happy New Year and a Question

Hi Susan,

Hope you had a good one! Have you folks over there got messaging yet on the closure of the third floor of the museum? Lots of emails and some calls on this one.

John Luton | Constituency Assistant | Lana Popham, MLA for Saanich South
Office: 250.479.4154 | 260 – 4243 Glanford Ave., Victoria, BC V8Z 4B9 | John.Luton@leg.bc.ca
Sign-up for our E-News [HERE](#) | Follow Lana on Facebook [HERE](#) | [Saanich South website](#)



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Cardona, Diego TACS:EX

From: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX
Sent: November 4, 2021 10:48 AM
To: Popham.MLA, Lana LASS:EX
Cc: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX
Subject: CASEWORK: Closing of Old Town in the RBC museum (Minister Popham)

Hi Jesse,

Thank you for reaching out, and hope all is well. Happy to share some KM's for you to include in a response to Minister Popham's constituent.

KM's:

Will there be further closures in the future?

- The narrative of the galleries on the third floor celebrates a European-settler view of what is now British Columbia, and is long overdue for updates.
- The work to include under-represented voices and contemporary stories of BC begins on the third floor.

What other steps out of the report to BC has the museum undertaken?

- In collaboration with our Indigenous Advisory & Advocacy Committee the museum is reviewing every aspect of the organization from governance at the board level, staffing, HR policies, to collections, research, exhibitions, and inclusion of under-represented voices.

What will the new galleries look like?

- The vision for updated, inclusive galleries will be informed by consultation with stakeholders including community partners.
- We will ensure Indigenous voices are heard and included, and the interpretation of Indigenous cultures is led by Indigenous communities.
- We will seek out diverse perspectives on BC identity—especially underrepresented voices—to broaden historical narratives and foster inclusivity.

When will community consultation on the new narratives start?

- Some initial consultation has been undertaken, and we will be reaching out to communities across the province to ensure that the experiences and contributions of contemporary Indigenous people, as well as Canadians from other underrepresented groups, as the project continues.

Are you closing the third-floor galleries due to repatriation?

- No, the galleries are not closing due to repatriation, they are closing as part of our efforts around decolonization and as a first step towards broader and more inclusive narratives.
- The Indigenous Collections and Repatriation department (ICAR) will continue to work through repatriation requests and work with Indigenous communities.

What is next?

- The next steps are for the third-floor galleries to be deconstructed and decanted with artifacts being returned to collections for care and conservation treatment.
- Concurrently, we'll determine a process for community outreach and engagement to hear the diverse perspectives on BC identity, that will help to shape the future narratives.

Quote from RBCM Acting CEO Daniel Muzyka

“Decolonization of the museum’s galleries is important and long overdue,” says acting CEO Daniel Muzyka. “As part of our work to implement modernized museum practices, in particular our efforts around decolonization, we will be closing the third-floor so we can decant our galleries. This is necessary to begin the long-term work of creating new narratives that include under-represented voices and reflect the lived experiences and contemporary stories of the people in BC.”

Hope this helps, please let me know if you require any additional information, always happy to assist.

Kenton Duncan | Executive Assistant to the Hon. Melanie Mark
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
P: 604-790-2740 E: Kenton.duncan@gov.bc.ca
Pronouns: He/Him

From: Popham.MLA, Lana <Lana.Popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: November 4, 2021 9:22 AM
To: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fw: Closing of Old Town in the RBC museum

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Kenton,

I hope you're enjoying this rainy November.

Do you folks have any relevant KMs that we could use in responding to the constituent below?

Thank you,

Jesse Green (he/him) | Constituency Assistant | Lana Popham, MLA for Saanich South
Office: 250.479.4154 | 260 – 4243 Glanford Ave., Victoria, BC V8Z 4B9 | Jesse.Green@leg.bc.ca
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From: s.22

Sent: 04 November 2021 00:38

To: Popham.MLA, Lana <Lana.Popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Subject: Closing of Old Town in the RBC museum

Honourable Lana Popham,

I am dismayed that the interim director of the RBC museum has decided to close the exhibits at the RBCM which portray BC's history with the reasoning of decolonization. Interim directors are interim because they are not qualified for the job... recruit an actual director then make decisions.

The Old town depicts history, a history which did happen, and these are very important events which shaped this province. Removing these exhibits from the museum is simply Orwellian. How can we learn from that past if we do not acknowledge it. s.22

s.22

If you want to de-colonize the RBCM remove the R not the town. And perhaps acknowledge the strong presence Metis people played in the gold rush and the settling of BC. Multiple lenses are the correct way to present, not one lens.

s.22

Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX

From: Mark, Melanie TACS:EX
Sent: February 23, 2022 4:31 PM
To: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX
Subject: Fwd: Staff note RBCM
Attachments: s.13

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Mark, Melanie TACS:EX <Melanie.Mark@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 12:37:16 PM
To: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Staff note RBCM

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From: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 6:17:49 PM
To: Mark, Melanie TACS:EX <Melanie.Mark@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Staff note RBCM

Thank you,
Diego

Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX

From: Mark, Melanie TACS:EX
Sent: February 23, 2022 4:30 PM
To: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX
Subject: Fwd: Dan from RBCM

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From: Mark, Melanie TACS:EX <Melanie.Mark@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 12:38:12 PM
To: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Dan from RBCM

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From: Flesh, Cindy TACS:EX <Cindy.Flesh@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 2:44:00 PM
To: Mark, Melanie TACS:EX <Melanie.Mark@gov.bc.ca>; Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Dan from RBCM

Hi Cindy, can you please pass along a message to the Minister that Dan is running about 4-5 minutes late and he sends his apologies. He will connect as soon as he can.

Thanks,
Lily

Cindy Flesh
Administrative Coordinator to the
Honourable Melanie Mark
Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

****As of May 4, 2020 amendments to the Lobbyists Transparency Act has come into force. You must ensure that you are in compliance with the registration requirements under the Act.** The Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists can assist you to determine if you are in compliance, please contact the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists at <https://www.lobbyistsregistrar.bc.ca/> **

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Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX

From: Mark, Melanie TACS:EX
Sent: February 23, 2022 4:31 PM
To: Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX
Subject: Fwd: TACS Media Request: RBCM third floor closure - Times colonist

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From: Mark, Melanie TACS:EX <Melanie.Mark@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 12:36:38 PM
To: diego.cardona@gmail.com <diego.cardona@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: TACS Media Request: RBCM third floor closure - Times colonist

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From: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Sunday, November 7, 2021 7:47:31 PM
To: Mark, Melanie TACS:EX <Melanie.Mark@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>; Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: TACS Media Request: RBCM third floor closure - Times colonist

Thanks, will incorporate the changes. Do you want a final review before I send it to reporter?

C

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 7, 2021, at 6:39 PM, Mark, Melanie TACS:EX <Melanie.Mark@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Rough edits

Sent from my iPad

On Nov 7, 2021, at 12:23 PM, Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Thank you,
Diego

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX" <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Date: November 5, 2021 at 5:36:41 PM PDT
To: "Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX" <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Cardona, Diego TACS:EX" <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>, "Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX" <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: TACS Media Request: RBCM third floor closure

Looks great to me.

Kenton & Diego, can you print first thing Monday morning?

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 5, 2021, at 4:57 PM, Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX
<Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi, proposed response for review and approval.

C

ght

Reportethe

Darron Kloster, t
Times Colonist
DKloster@timescolonist
250-889-7307

Deadline Monday, November 8, 2021 11:00 AM

Request

Reporter would like to expand on Minister's news release quote and get her perspective as the First Indigenous minister and as the minister in charge of RBCM Museum on the changes

s.13

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Back Pocket for 11:15: RBCM Project Briefing - Key points

From: Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX <Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca>
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Avison, Claire TACS:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 5, 2021 8:01:15 AM PDT
Attachments: s.12; s.13

Hi Melissa –s.12; s.13

Claire can provide the higher level project status perspective, but wanted to share as no surprises. We would suggest MMM could speak to the importance of the project and turn to Claire for status update.

Thanks, CZ

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13

RBCM Third Floor Closure Announcement NR for review

From: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Holding, Marina TAC:EX <Marina.Holding@gov.bc.ca>, Nessel, Jill GCPE:EX <Jill.Nessel@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 26, 2021 10:30:13 AM PDT
Attachments: 10-20-2021_Third Floor Closure Announcement_DRAFT_Oct 21 SR CW .docx
Hello,

Attached is the latest copy of the RBCM 3rd floor closure NR. They incorporated many of my suggested edits but not the ones I wanted in the lede.

Can you please share any additional edits from your end.

Brian has reviewed and I will share with Neilane as well in advance of the briefing tomorrow once I get a sense from you.

I have also asked for their KMQA so we know how they plan to respond to the “when are you opening the 3rd floor” q.

Thx
Carla

November 1, 2021

Royal BC Museum Announces Upcoming Changes to Core Galleries

VICTORIA, BC — The Royal BC Museum announced today that it will begin closing sections of the third floor for renovations. Minor closures will begin in November, leading up to a full closure of the third floor as of January 2, 2022.

The Royal BC Museum third floor comprises the First Peoples gallery, *Our Living Languages: First Peoples' Voices in BC* exhibition, and *Becoming BC* gallery. A phased approach to closure allows British Columbians to plan a last visit (on or before December 31, 2021) to beloved exhibits as they were originally built.

"Decolonization of the museum's galleries is important and long overdue, says acting CEO Daniel Muzyka. "As part of our work to implement modernized museum practices, in particular our efforts around decolonization, we will be closing the third-floor so we can decant our galleries. This is necessary to begin the long-term work of creating new narratives that include under-represented voices and reflect the lived experiences and contemporary stories of the people in BC."

The phased closure will begin with the mezzanines in the *Becoming BC* gallery, which have largely focused on promoting the story of the European settlement of BC. Initial work will have a very limited impact for visitors through to the end of the year.

"We are diversifying and decolonizing the way we share the history of B.C.," says Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, Hon. Melanie Mark. "For too long, museums have been colonial institutions that exclude others from telling their own stories. We have an opportunity to change that, and it starts here, now, on the museum's third floor."

Royal BC Museum staff will continue to offer opportunities for community engagement through webinars, online learning and virtual tours. The museum will also expand its provincial travelling exhibition and pop-up exhibit programs, including installations across Greater Victoria.

— 30 —

About the Royal BC Museum: The Royal BC Museum explores the province's human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of B.C., and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of B.C. in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Located in Victoria on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum

s.13

s.13

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

FW: RBCM updated NR and KMQA attached

From: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX
To: Smith, Jimmy GCPE:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 27, 2021 1:07:46 PM PDT
Attachments: November 1 QA_V4 Oct 26.docx, 10-26-2021_Third Floor Closure s.13

Hi Jimmy,

A number of significant milestones coming for the RBCM modernization project.

Could you take a look at the NR and the QA?

Thanks,
Melissa

From: Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 27, 2021 11:30 AM
To: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX <Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>; Nessel, Jill GCPE:EX <Jill.Nessel@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RBCM updated NR and KMQA attached

Hello,

Attached is the updated News release (with edits accepted) KMQA (with my & Corinna's edits added) s.13
s.13

Wanted you to have this info back pocket for this afternoon.

Can you please let me know what additional Q's or edits you have to the KMQA.

Gracias,
Carla

November 1st Q&As

- **What are the timelines for closure for the third-floor galleries?**
 - There will be minimal closures of the third-floor galleries, with limited impact to visitors, starting in November. The phased closures will affect lower-traffic areas including the mezzanine levels in Old Town, Forestry and Mining.
 - There will be a full closure of the third-floor galleries as of January 2nd 2022.
- **Will there be further closures in the future?**
 - The narrative of the galleries on the third floor celebrates a European-settler view of what is now British Columbia, and is long overdue for updates.
 - The work to include under-represented voices and contemporary stories of BC begins on the third floor.
- **Is this the first stage of a full closure? Is the museum going to close?**
 - Closing and beginning to decant the third-floor galleries is an important first step on a journey to broaden historical narratives and foster inclusivity.
- **Does this mean the museum project is moving forward?**
 - This is one of the first milestones on the journey to implement contemporary museum practices and begin the necessary long-term work of creating new narratives that include under-represented voices and contemporary stories of the people in BC.
- **What is next?**
 - The next steps are for the third-floor galleries to be deconstructed and decanted with artifacts being returned to collections for care and conservation treatment.
 - Concurrently, we'll determine a process for community outreach and engagement to hear the diverse perspectives on BC identity, that will help to shape the future narratives.
- **What other steps out of the report to BC has the museum undertaken?**
 - In collaboration with our Indigenous Advisory & Advocacy Committee the museum is reviewing every aspect of the organization from governance, staffing, HR policies, to collections, research, exhibitions, and inclusion of under-represented voices.
- **How are the museum staff affected?**
 - Museum staff will play an integral role in decanting the exhibits and packing up the artifacts, specimens and cultural belongings. This is an exciting time to be a part of crafting new narratives in how we tell the stories of the people in BC.
- **What will happen to the current exhibits from the third floor e.g. Old Town?**
 - Exhibits on the third floor will be deconstructed and decanted.
 - Artifacts, specimens and other sensitive objects will be returned to collections areas for inspection and conservation treatment.
 - Work will be done to review other exhibit materials and some pieces may be stored for future use.

s.13

- **What will the new galleries look like?**
 - The vision for updated, inclusive galleries will be informed by consultation with stakeholders including community partners.
 - We will ensure Indigenous voices are heard and included, and the interpretation of Indigenous cultures is led by Indigenous communities.
 - We will seek out diverse perspectives on BC identity—especially underrepresented voices—to broaden historical narratives and foster inclusivity.
- **When will community consultation on the new narratives start?**
 - Some initial consultation has been undertaken, and we will be reaching out to communities across the province to ensure that the experiences and contributions of contemporary Indigenous people, as well as Canadians from other underrepresented groups, as the project continues.
- **What is the cost of the new gallery work?**
 - The initial work is on deconstructing and decanting the existing exhibits: future milestones will lay out a plan for the new galleries.
- What are you doing with some of the First Nations items? Will you be repatriating them?
- **Why does this need to happen now?**
 - We've heard from British Columbians and they want us to act, to make bold changes that will include the voices and reflect the lived experiences of the communities and peoples in the land we call British Columbia today. Closing the third-floor galleries is the first step on a journey to doing this.
- **Why was there no public consultation?**
 - During our consultation in 2019 ~~We have~~ heard loudly and clearly from British Columbians that the status quo is not good enough—that change is urgently needed. We are answering that call.
 - Regarding this specific announcement, there was never any way the museum could begin work to update gallery narratives and build a more-inclusive museum without closing the third-floor.
 - We have chosen a phased approach to closure, in order to give British Columbians time to visit the third floor (Human History) galleries before they close.
- **How does this relate to the CRB project?**
 - The work planned for the third-floor focuses on updating the narrative in the museum's third floor galleries and updating museum practices overall.
 - The Collections and Research Building (CRB), planned for Colwood, is a separate project that will house the Royal BC Museum collections and research departments and the BC Archives, in a purpose-built facility
- **How can you close the First Peoples Gallery to Indigenous peoples?**
 - We recognize that, even though there is much work to be done to update the First Peoples Gallery, it is a very important place to Indigenous and non-Indigenous visitors.

- While the gallery is closed, the Indigenous Collections and Repatriation department (ICAR) will continue to serve Indigenous communities in BC through private consultation, visits to the collections, online access and, continued focus on repatriation of Indigenous cultural materials.

- **How will people learn about BC Human History with these galleries closed?**

- The Learning Portal and Teacher's learning aids created and managed by the museum, are incredible, freely accessible online resources to learn about all aspects of BC.
- The museum will continue to offer opportunities for community outreach and additional engagement through outreach, webinars, online learning (including the Learning Portal and teachers learning aids) and virtual tours. The museum will also expand its provincial travelling exhibition and pop-up exhibit programs, including installations across Greater Victoria. As we finalize these programs, we'll share information through the Royal BC Museum website and social channels.

Is this part of the modernization plan? Are you building a new museum?

- Today we are announcing the closure of the third floor as part of our work to implement modernized museum practices, in particular our efforts around decolonization.
- Any additional questions about the modernization project are best directed to GCPE Carla Wormald.

Memberships and Pricing

- **Why has the museum stopped selling memberships?**

- Without access to the third-floor galleries, the value of our membership has changed.
- We're revisiting the membership program and will share updates on new membership opportunities in the future.

- **What will happen to existing memberships?**

- Existing memberships will be honoured.
- Those who wish to cancel their membership (due to the third-floor closure) will receive a pro-rated refund.

- **Will the price of museum admission be affected?**

- Yes. Effective January 2, 2022, museum admission will return to base rates of \$18.95, which will include admission to the highly successful feature exhibition, *Orcas: Our Shared Future*, which had been extended from January until March 31st 2022 for visitors to enjoy.

- **What about IMAX Victoria?**

- IMAX Victoria will continue to be open as usual.

s.13

November 1, 2021

Royal BC Museum Announces Upcoming Changes to Core Galleries

VICTORIA, BC — The Royal BC Museum announced today that it will begin closing sections of the third floor to begin the process of decolonization in these galleries. Minor closures will begin in November, leading up to a full closure of the third floor as of January 2, 2022.

The Royal BC Museum third floor comprises the First Peoples gallery, *Our Living Languages: First Peoples' Voices in BC* exhibition, and *Becoming BC* gallery. A phased approach to closure allows British Columbians to plan a visit (on or before December 31, 2021) to exhibits as they were originally built.

“Decolonization of the museum’s galleries is important and long overdue, says acting CEO Daniel Muzyka. “As part of our work to implement modernized museum practices, in particular our efforts around decolonization, we will be closing the third-floor so we can decant our galleries. This is necessary to begin the long-term work of creating new narratives that include under-represented voices and reflect the lived experiences and contemporary stories of the people in BC.”

The phased closure of the third floor will begin with the mezzanines in the *Becoming BC* gallery, which have largely focused on promoting the story of the European settlement of BC. This work will have a very limited impact for visitors through to the end of the year.

“We are diversifying and decolonizing the way we share the history of B.C.,” says Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, Hon. Melanie Mark. “For too long, museums have been colonial institutions that exclude others from telling their own stories. We have an opportunity to change that, and it starts here, now, on the museum’s third floor.”

During the third-floor closure, the Royal BC Museum staff will continue to offer opportunities for community engagement through webinars, online learning and virtual tours. The museum will also expand its provincial travelling exhibition and pop-up exhibit programs, including installations across Greater Victoria.

— 30 —

About the Royal BC Museum: The Royal BC Museum explores the province’s human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of B.C., and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of B.C. in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Located in Victoria on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum



Nations), we are a hub of community connections in B.C.—onsite, offsite and online—taking pride in our collective histories.

Photos of third-floor galleries: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/36463010@N05/r6MUg9>

Media contacts:

Sam Rich
Corporate Communications Manager
250-208-9148
srich@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

Wesley MacInnis
Communications Specialist
250-208-8846
news@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

 [RoyalBCMuseum](https://twitter.com/RoyalBCMuseum)  [royalbcmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/royalbcmuseum)  [RoyalBCMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/RoyalBCMuseum)

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Flagging Embargoed NR for RBCM for Wednesday November 3rd

From: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX
To: Lee, Isabella AF:EX <Isabella.Lee@gov.bc.ca>, Stojkovic, Josipa MCF:EX <Josipa.Stojkovic@gov.bc.ca>, Munro, Asia IRR:EX <Asia.Munro@gov.bc.ca>, Champion, Ella D TRAN:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Lore.MLA, Grace LASS:EX <Grace.Lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, Horgan.MLA, John LASS:EX <John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, Cardona, Diego TACS:EX <Diego.Cardona@gov.bc.ca>, Duncan, Kenton TACS:EX <Kenton.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 29, 2021 12:08:04 PM PDT
Attachments: s.13

Hi folks,

As mentioned on the pitch meeting, in an effort to decolonize and modernize their exhibits, the RBCM will be closing their 3rd floor to the public. I have attached the embargoed News Release and KMQA for your MLA/Minister. I anticipate a lot of questions from the south island community. The RBCM has staff available to engage with the public, but some of those questions may come through the constituency offices.

I can confirm that Tourism Victoria and The City of Victoria have been engaged as well.

I am available to answer any questions and the CEO of RBCM has offered the south island MLAs a briefing. Please let me know if anyone is interested in that being scheduled.

Thanks all and have an awesome weekend!

Melissa

Melissa Farrance | Senior Ministerial Advisor
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
P: 250-213-1432 E: Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca
Pronouns: she/hers

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

43810 Royal BC Museum

From: s.22
To: TACS Deputy Minister TACS:EX <TACS.DeputyMinister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 25, 2021 9:14:44 AM PST

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

I'm sure you've heard from many British Columbians, but I have to add my voice. How can you possibly stand by and watch while our world class museum (a huge draw for tourists at a time when we need to support and retain the places that will bring people here) is virtually destroyed, before plans are even in place for moving forward. As a citizen and resident of Victoria, I feel completely betrayed.

s.22

Victoria

Sent from my iPad

Victoria, 28th January 2021

To whom it may concern:

The news that the 3rd Floor of the Royal BC Museum is to be closed and “Old Town” and the displays about the early settler history of BC to be dismantled has upset me greatly.

Even before s.22 I had heard much praise about the RBCM from my new s.22 I was eager to learn about the place s.2 brought me to and visited the museum s.22 in Victoria – and promptly fell in love with it: the natural history dioramas were so informative and the third floor was simply stunning, both the First Nations Gallery and the displays about the settler history of BC.

s.22

s.22 I can testify that all of them were awed by what they saw! “Old Town” was always a favorite, as well as the First Peoples Gallery.

Losing the third floor to “de-colonization”, whatever that might mean, for years without any information about what will replace the present exhibits is a sad and upsetting prospect – not only for a person like me, and for innumerable visitors, young and old, but also for the tourism business in Victoria. s.22

s.22 That remodeling was primarily to enhance the displays, not to rewrite the history of the country according to the latest trend in reinterpreting history. It is said that each generation rewrites history, s.22

s.22 I think that such rewriting has to be based on sound research, on new evidence coming forth, but not on hasty reactions to new political trends.

Please, reconsider the dismantling of the “colonial” displays on the Third Floor, at least until a proper reassessment and public consultation of those that pay for the museum, i.e. the BC taxpayers, has taken place. Much can be done to address and show the tragic story of the treatment of the First Nations of this part of the world, but that does not mean that the settler story should be written out of history.

Respectfully yours,

s.22

Dear Ms Mayhew,

s.22

s.22

The best thing about the museum is the atmosphere. I feel transported to another world while I am there, and many of these exhibits are very special places to me.s.22 and always especially remember:

- the car named Elizabeth s.22
- the ocean salt smell on board the ship (I'd imagine myself as a pirate) — I LOVE the ship
- holding s.22 while waiting in fearful anticipation at the train station
- watching silent movies in the tiny old theatre
- how spooky the mining area is: I'd imagine being a miner in the dark
- panning for gold and watching the water wheel for ages
- that gorgeous horse with the snowy backdrop (almost as good as the mammoth) and imagining how harsh life as a settler would be

s.22

- learning about the possible ghosts in the hotel
- especially, the kitchen upstairs where the 'breeze' flutters a lace curtain, you can smell cinnamon, and hear hoofsteps 'outside'

The whole of this floor is so atmospheric. It is FILLED with some of my favourite places and memories. I would be absolutely heartbroken to see these exhibits removed or heavily modified. I understand you wish to expand the context of the exhibits, but these places are more than BC's history, they are the history of the people of Victoria and you should not think it is right to erase, change, or remove them.

Adding more interpretive signs would be a great step, but heavily changing these places would be devastating. Please reconsider your approach.

Yours Sincerely,

s.22

s.22 a sense of wonder overcame me on entering the Becoming B.C. Gallery's Old Town. It was the first, and maybe still the best such indoor museum re-creation I've seen.s.22
s.22

That feeling of walking into the past, exhilarating in itself, helped inspire a lifelong fascination with history. s.22

s.22

s.22

s.22

History, it seemed, happened somewhere else, wasn't at all interesting and didn't matter.

Vancouver is also a place where ongoing demolition and redevelopment give the visible past so little presence. So historical awareness helps foster a sense of continuity. More importantly, it offers perspective on the present and maybe the future too.

But in B.C. we have too few opportunities to engage young people and interested adults in the subject. The Becoming B.C. Gallery provided a great introduction not only to this province, but to history as a subject that's both interesting and important. The gallery also drew visitors to the museum's very extensive native exhibits.

Of course, no one with any concept of the subject would think a single museum gallery, book, university program or other source would comprise the alpha and omega of any historical topic. And there's sometimes an element of truth to the saying that history is written by the victors. But the accuracy of that statement depends on the degree of control imposed by the victors.

Recent events at the Royal B.C. Museum don't bode well for an accurate, balanced presentation of history. That's especially true when extremely vague, cliched allegations of racism led to the resignation of a director with international experience and a strong interest in native culture. The outcome of the museum's new approach might be a presentation of racial guilt for one group and racial moral superiority for another.

That would be recognizable to people familiar with the history of totalitarian regimes.

s.22

s.22 It was really fun!

s.22 and visiting the third floor exhibition, not just the Old Town, but the whole thing, it gave me a totally new understanding and appreciation of the people who built this country. Mining and forestry industries, sailors, explorers, traders, the rich and the poor, indigenous people and immigrants... So many cultural clashes!

Best wishes,

s.22

s.22

Please don't change the museum, at least give the public time for feedback. Once you tear it out, you'll never be able to remake it. This will be remembered as a tragedy for generations to come.

Sincerely,

s.22

s.22

The idea that history should be hidden from the public is absolutely abhorrent to me. s.22

s.22

s.22

s.22

The juxtaposition on the third floor of the Old Town and the First Peoples exhibit was the most fascinating as it provided a great time capsule into early BC and in many ways helped to orientate myself s.22 and now having historical perspective to draw on.

The smells in the exhibits transported one back in time and made you feel like you had lived the experience, which is a testament to how well the exhibits achieved the effect of transporting one into history. Smells stick very well in memory and make one feel as if the past has been brought back to life and almost as if you had lived during those times.

As a result of those factors the third-floor sticks in my mind the most of any of the exhibits in the museum. I have never seen an exhibit like the Old Town in any other museum. It is simply unique as far as I have seen.

The First Peoples Galleries were wonderful. The fascinating masks and learning about the way of life of native peoples including about their basketry, food gathering methods and construction of different habitations along with the spiritual intensity of their culture and how this was intimately connected with their traditional artistry in particular stuck with me.

It would nice if there was added information about their traditional methods of stewarding the land and sea in a sustainable way that we could learn from in the present.

s.22

s.22 Having seen the museum exhibits it made me aware how important it was to have good resources in the libraries for native children about their history, stories and cultural traditions and also the importance of having instruction from indigenous peoples in the schools,

s.22

The museum exhibits also helped spurn interesting interactions s.22 and made it clear how important it was to be involved with the native peoples, now being able to relate to their fascinating history and traditional ways of life.

s.22

s.22

s.22

I particularly found it to be a great immersive experience for young people to get a sense of history and their place in it, that is available in few other places.

Yours sincerely,

s.22

December 30, 2021

Royal BC Museum Administrators,
BC Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture
Deputy Premier of BC
Premier of BC

Dear Sirs, Madams and Others:

I s.22 were appalled to hear that it is the intention to destroy the Old Town at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria. All this based on “decolonizing” our museum. This museum was paid for by the hard work of people from British Columbia. This includes all people who have worked for many years of their lives to improve the lives of British Columbians.

Our heritage in this country includes the very important development of Canada from East to West. This development involved the highest level of sacrifice from people from many different cultures who can to Canada to escape **poverty, war, torture and communism**. Sometimes they were escaping all four as s.22 The hardships and sacrifices they made in order to develop this country cannot be imagined by the generation of people today. To believe that destroying and denigrating their sacrifices is the right way to deal with the Canadian governments decisions regarding indigenous peoples is **divisive, illogical and will end with only creating more problems**.

The narrative that is being pushed by an elite group of educators and politicians is that we who are descendents of the people who came and sacrificed so much to develop this country should somehow feel shame is without common sense. It is not sustainable if allowed proper discussion and dealing with facts and not emotions.

s.22

s.22 The exhibits that show the livery, train, pharmacy, Majestic Theatre, the old films – all of this provides insight and learning for these s.22 should not be destroyed for any reason.

It is soul destroying to think that a small group of people who believe in the new “decolonizing ideology” would take away these teaching opportunities and attempt to destroy our heritage and take this from the descendants of refugees who came to this country and helped develop it to what it is today.

Sincerely,

s.22

s.22

s.22

The immersiveness of the historical experience meant learning that didn't actually seem like learning at all, but it was and it was an excellent way of learning as well that has fueled a life long fascination with both history and natural history that has sprawled continents and involved countless reading materials.

s.22

That this is now some sort of taboo history here, but not back east is absurd. I am of course referring to the excellent CPR exhibit in the Old Town that we loved sitting waiting for the train to the sound of crickets and the telegraph at work and if we ever got tired of listening to the crickets chirping and telegraph tapping, there was always a Charlie Chaplin film waiting just around the corner to take us back into a time capsule that even now seems surreal.

One of the things about s.22 is that a museum like the RBCM is a fun living entity and not the pedantic world of dull political discourse that adult careerists would make of it. There is practically unlimited space for imagination in the exhibits, which unfortunately many museums lack. Some could say that this is even a fault of the RBCM for not being similar to many other museums, but it is exactly the uniqueness of the RBCM exhibits that give it its charm and make it stand out being rated the top museum in Canada and receiving 4.7 out of 5 stars on Google. Simply put throwing the permanent exhibits out over the political flavour/winds of the week is throwing the baby out with the bath water and this is one extraordinary baby that took exceptional and painstaking work about to be tossed out.

s.22

learning how to gold pan at the gold panning exhibit, what an experience for young people! Captain Vancouver's ship The Discovery is always excellent at firing the imagination of youngsters. The mining exhibit made me appreciate the workers who worked and often gave their lives working in the mines of early BC and the type of equipment they used on display was truly fascinating.

The museum was also a great way to introduce students from abroad to BC history, s.22

s.22

The First Peoples Galleries were and still are mind blowing. s.22

what awe I was in from the masks in the eery supernatural initiation cave. s.22

s.22

The masks are astounding, as are the totem poles and native habitations and made one have such an appreciation for native history. The Edward Curtis film clip of native rowing for all its contrived faults, still manages to conjure up a sense of the natives

on the high seas with an intimate spiritual connection to and veneration for the objects of their hunt and the spirits of the sea, which is reflected intensely in their traditional art, architecture and dance.

Please think more than twice before throwing something priceless out, which has far more value than may be comprehended at a quick glance.

Yours sincerely,

s.22

Dear Ms. Mayhew,

I am writing to you today to urge you to preserve the Old Town exhibit, during the renovation work of the third floor of the Royal British Columbia Museum. I strongly believe that closing Old Town would be a genuine loss. It's an immersive masterpiece and is especially magical for children. s.22

s.22 I feel that I owe a small debt to that exhibit, which is part of the reason I am writing to you today.

I understand that the purpose of this renovation is to decolonize the museum, which is a commendable goal. Aligning your exhibits with recent developments in history and anthropology, thereby updating the way we interact with the past, is in everyone's best interests. Museums have an important role to in the ongoing process of reconciliation.

That said, there is no getting away from the fact that Victoria was a colonial outpost. This history deserves to be represented in the museum. Perhaps an updated version of the Old Town exhibit could serve the dual purpose of exploring this central facet of Victoria's history in an approachable, compelling manner. Old Town's masterful update in the early 1990s, to include the Chinatown Section, could serve as a blueprint for including more diverse perspectives.

I believe that updating Old Town, rather than doing away with it entirely, is in the museum's best interest. s.22 but I have rarely seen an exhibit that is as immersive and engaging as Old Town. Too often, museum displays are sterile and lifeless. I urge you to consider this, when planning the coming updates to the third floor.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Best regards,
s.22

Main message: New museum long overdue

The Royal BC Museum is one of our province's greatest cultural icons, welcoming hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

The museum has served BC for decades in its current location and in fact, it's been more than 50 years since there have been any major repairs, renovations, or upgrades.

We simply must take action soon. A new and modernized museum is long overdue, for safety, accessibility, and to keep our collections safe.

The current museum site is at the end of its useful life.

- The facilities are seismically unsafe and are vulnerable to damage.
 - With climate change, we're seeing more extreme weather events and in the event of a flood, artifacts and irreplaceable parts of B.C.'s history could be damaged and lost forever.
- Building material does not meet modern safety standards
 - For example, the building, and some exhibits like Old Town, are full of asbestos
 - The building fails to meet accessibility standards – we want everyone in B.C. to be able to enjoy and participate in the museum experience.

Continuing without a major redevelopment is simply not an option.

To address this, our vision is to build a new state-of-the-art facility that provides a cultural and historical legacy for the province and brings significant economic and social benefits for the region.

A business case for a new museum facility that considers our shared histories has been developed, and we are working to finalize details including the project's scope and budget. We will let people know once this work is completed, which is expected in the next several months.

Secondary messaging: updating exhibits

It is a normal process for museums to update existing exhibits, and cultivate new ones.

The majority of RBCM's core galleries were developed a half century ago, and have not been substantially updated in 50 years. Updates and upgrades are an opportunity for the RBCM to refresh, clean and conserve artifacts, and provide new additions and histories to much loved exhibits.

It is imperative that the RBCM develop an inclusive museum experience. This is an opportunity to add the voices and lived-experiences of nations, communities and people in British Columbia who may have been previously left out.

Our exhibits will continue to tell the story of our past, just as they have done for decades.

And now, we'll have the opportunity to add everyone in these stories. Including the communities that were previously overlooked, ignored, or left out.

RBCM is one of our greatest cultural icons and we need to preserve it. Our vision is to build a state-of-the-art facility that provides a cultural legacy for the province and economic and social benefits for the local region.

If asked: Why did you close down the 3rd floor and now you're closing down the whole museum?

- We've been working towards this new, state of the art facility for some time and needed to start moving collections to storage in advance— there are over 7 million objects in our care and 27km of archival records in the whole museum that need to move
- The 3rd floor is the most complex to decant and makes sense to start that process. Decanting is the process of cleaning, categorizing, moving and storing artifacts
- We've heard clearly from the community that regardless of whether we had a new facility or not, people want experiential, dynamic and interactive exhibits, a museum that builds relationships with a wide range of communities, that is a place of learning and that cultivates our living histories.
- I think most people in B.C. understand the need to fully and accurately reflect B.C.'s histories

RBCM will be doing robust public engagement on the exhibits that go into the new museum facility and feedback from the third-floor closure will absolutely be taken into consideration

If asked: Engagement:

In 2019, Government undertook a public consultation to inform the modernization of the RBCM. We heard that British Columbians want us to make changes that will include the voices and experiences of the communities and people in British Columbia.

The museum's galleries were developed more than a half century ago and they do not fully reflect the many nations, cultures and people who have contributed to our provincial history.

As we move forward, we want to keep hearing from people and public engagement will continue to inform the modernization of the RBCM.

Our vision is to build a state-of-the-art facility that provides a cultural legacy for the province and economic and social benefits for the local region. A business case has been developed and we will let people know once the details, including the project's scope and budget, are completed, which we expect will be in the next few months.

It will take time to build a new museum and while this work takes place, the Royal BC Museum will be showcasing select travelling exhibitions around the province and curated content in public locations in Victoria. People across B.C. will get to see museum content that they've never had access to before – opening up B.C.'s history to even more people.

We are also looking forward to our new facility in Colwood to house RBCM's archives, collections and research department. Expected to be completed in 2025, it will provide dedicated research labs and learning spaces, and improve access for British Columbians to the museum's vast collections.

The new Royal BC Museum will build upon the foundation as the world-class museum it has been known as, with a facility that reflects the safety and accessibility standards we hold all public buildings to today, and one that reflects a broader representation of the many people, events and cultures that are part of British Columbia's rich and living history.

Once we finalize the details for the new museum we will let people know, but we cannot share any of those details in advance. We continue to do this important work, and are excited to announce next steps in the future.

A new and modern Royal BC Museum is long overdue

By Melanie Mark

The Royal BC Museum is one of our province's greatest cultural icons and most important institutions. It is curated and nurtured by outstanding experts and visited and beloved by hundreds of thousands of visitors each year both locally and internationally.

The museum has served British Columbians and visitors alike for 135 years. Core exhibitions like Old Town and the First Peoples gallery have been imprinted on the memories of multiple generations of British Columbian children, including my own daughters. The exhibits have sparked the imagination of countless people, teleporting us to various moments of our province's past, and as adults, bringing us back to when we first looked up at the rows of totems or the towering mammoth.

Ensuring that future generations have access to these transformative experiences is a deeply held responsibility for me and for Premier John Horgan. While the museum has been at its current location since 1967, it's been decades since it last saw any major repairs, renovations or upgrades.

The museum's downtown facilities encompass five buildings over two hectares, curating everything from research to restoration to repatriation.

Sadly, the facilities are at the end of their useful life. They are seismically at risk and are vulnerable to damage. In the event of a major flood, artifacts and irreplaceable parts of B.C.'s history could be damaged and lost forever.

Building materials in current use do not meet modern safety standards. Exhibits like Old Town are full of asbestos. As well, the building fails to meet today's accessibility standards, denying many people the ability to experience the museum.

There are seven-million objects under our stewardship at the Royal BC Museum. Laid end-to-end, the total length of archival records would span 27 kilometers. Carrying on without major changes poses a serious risk to our collective history and precious artifacts.

That's why after decades of neglect, our government made a commitment in both the 2019 and 2020 Speech from the Throne, to protect our collective heritage and give the museum the respect it deserves. In 2019, we engaged the public about what a 21st century reimagined Royal BC Museum could look like.

We heard that British Columbians want us to make changes that will include the voices and experiences of the communities and people in British Columbia. People want dynamic and interactive exhibits, a museum that builds relationships with a wide range of communities, that is a place of learning and that cultivates our living history.

I think most people in B.C. would agree with the need to fully and accurately reflect our province's history. As our province's flagship historical centre, the Royal BC Museum has a duty to curate the past with an equal responsibility to accurately reflect a timeline of our shared history.

We must take action now. A new and modern museum is long overdue, for the safety of all visitors, to remove barriers so everyone can access it and to keep our irreplaceable collections safe. Continuing on without a major redevelopment is not an option for anyone serious about the stewardship of B.C.'s history and culture.

Our goal is to build a state-of-the-art facility that provides an educational and cultural legacy for the province while at the same time brings significant economic and social benefits to the region.

A new Royal BC Museum will build upon the foundation the world-class museum has been known as, with a facility that reflects modern safety, environmental and accessibility standards and reflects a broader representation of the many people, events and cultures that are part of British Columbia's rich and living history.

A business case has been developed and in the coming months, we will bring forward all aspects of the plan for the new museum including the project's scope and budget. I look forward to announcing next steps.

I know people are passionate about their Museum. I have heard the varying views British Columbians have expressed about the future embodiment of our past. I also want it to be very clear, not one of our histories will be erased or destroyed.

As we move forward, we want to keep hearing from people and robust community engagement, including continuing our work with the local First Nations, will continue to inform the modernization of the museum. Our exhibits will continue to tell the story of our past, just as they have done for decades. But now, we'll have the opportunity to ensure everyone, both digitally and in person, is included and everyone can experience those stories.

A new state-of-the-art Royal BC Museum legacy will be built as a renewed inheritance for generations to come.

Melanie Mark, Hli Haykwhl Wíi Xsgaak, is B.C.'s Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, responsible for the RBCM. She is the first and only First Nations woman to be elected to the B.C. Legislature and appointed to Cabinet.

Key Messages/QA

Royal BC Museum closure and modernization

January 28, 2022

Key Messages

Main message: a new museum is long overdue

- **The Royal BC Museum is one of our province's greatest cultural icons, welcoming hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.**
- **The museum has served BC for a long time, and in fact, it's been decades since it's last seen any major repairs, renovations, or upgrades.**
- **We simply must take action soon. A modernized museum is long overdue, for safety, accessibility, and to keep irreplaceable collections safe.**
- **The current facilities are at the end of their useful life.**
- **They are seismically unsafe and vulnerable to damage.**
 - **With climate change, we're seeing more extreme weather events.**
 - **If there was a flood, it's possible artifacts and irreplaceable parts of B.C.'s history would be damaged and lost forever.**
- **Building material does not meet modern safety standards**
 - **For example, the building, and some exhibits like Old Town, are full of asbestos**
- **The building does not meet accessibility standards and we want everyone in B.C. to be enjoy the museum and learn about B.C.'s history.**
- **Continuing without a major redevelopment is not an option.**
- **Our vision is to build a new state-of-the-art facility that provides a cultural legacy for the province and economic and social benefits for the local region.**

Secondary messaging: updating exhibits

- **It is a standard process for museums to update exhibits and cultivate new ones.**
- **The majority of RBCM's core galleries were developed a half-century ago and have not been updated since.**
- **Updates and upgrades are an opportunity for the museum to refresh, clean and preserve artifacts, and provide new additions to much loved exhibits.**
- **This is also an opportunity to include the voices and lived-experiences of communities and people in British Columbia who may have been previously left out of our stories and histories.**
- **Our exhibits will continue to tell the story of our past, just as they have done for decades.**
- **But now, we'll have the opportunity to include everyone in these stories. Including the communities that were previously overlooked, ignored, or left out.**
- **RBCM is one of our greatest cultural icons and we need to preserve it. Our vision is to build a state-of-the-art facility that provides a cultural legacy for the province and economic and social benefits for the local region.**

Questions and Answers

1. Why didn't you say you were planning a new building when you announced the closure of the third floor?

- We've been working towards this new, state of the art facility for some time and needed to start moving collections to storage in advance—there are over 7 million objects in our care and 27 km of archival records in the whole museum that need to move
- The 3rd floor is the most complex to decant and makes sense to start that process. Decanting is the process of cleaning, categorizing, moving and storing artifacts.
- And we'd heard clearly from the community that regardless of whether we had a new facility or not, people want dynamic and interactive exhibits, a museum that builds relationships with a wide range of communities, that is a place of learning and that cultivates our living history.
- I think most people in B.C. understand the need to fully and accurately reflect B.C.'s history.
- The new Royal BC Museum will build upon the foundation the world-class museum it has been known as, with a facility that reflects the safety and accessibility standards we hold all public buildings to today, and one that reflects a broader representation of the many people, events and cultures that are part of British Columbia's rich and living history.
- We will be doing robust public engagement on the exhibits that go into the new museum facility and feedback from the third-floor closure will absolutely be taken into consideration.

2. Why was there no public consultation before making these decisions?

- In 2019, Government undertook a public consultation to inform the modernization of the museum. We heard that British Columbians want us to make changes that will include the voices and experiences of the communities and people in British Columbia.

- The museum's galleries were developed more than a half century ago and they do not fully reflect the many cultures and people who have contributed to our provincial history.
- Our vision is to build a state-of-the-art facility that provides a cultural legacy for the province and economic and social benefits for the local region
- As we move forward, we want to keep hearing from people and robust community engagement, including continuing our work with the local First Nations, will continue to inform the modernization of the museum.
- Our exhibits will continue to tell the story of our past, just as they have done for decades. But now, we'll have the opportunity to ensure everyone, both digitally and in person, is included and everyone can experience those stories.
- It will take time to build a new museum and while this work takes place, the Royal BC Museum will be showcasing select travelling exhibitions around the province and curated content in public locations in Victoria. The museum is also digitizing its collections. People across B.C. will get to see museum content that they've never had access to before – opening up B.C.'s history to even more people.

3. What are your plans for the artifacts and exhibits?

- Our vision is to build a new state-of-the-art facility that provides a cultural and historical legacy for the province and brings significant economic and social benefits for the region.
- Updates and upgrades are an opportunity for the museum to refresh, clean and preserve artifacts, and provide new additions to much loved exhibits.
- The Royal BC Museum will be showcasing select travelling exhibitions around the province and curated content in public locations in Victoria. The museum is also digitizing its collections. People across B.C. will get to see museum content that they've never had access to before – opening up B.C.'s history to even more people.
- We are also looking forward to our new facility in Colwood to house RBCM's archives, collections and research department. Expected to be completed in 2025, it will provide dedicated research labs and learning

spaces, and improve access for British Columbians to the museum's vast collections.

4. Why did you have to close the third floor now?

- We've been working towards this new, state of the art facility for some time and needed to start moving collections to storage in advance—there are over 7 million objects in our care and 27 km of archival records in the whole museum that need to move
- The 3rd floor is the most complex to decant and makes sense to start that process. Decanting is the process of cleaning, categorizing, moving and storing artifacts.
- And we'd heard clearly from the community that regardless of whether we had a new facility or not, people want dynamic and interactive exhibits, a museum that builds relationships with a wide range of communities, that is a place of learning and that cultivates our living history.
- I think most people in B.C. understand the need to fully and accurately reflect B.C.'s history.

5. Why didn't you wait to close the third floor until you had a plan for a new building?

- The museum has served BC for a long time, and in fact, it's been decades since it's last seen any major repairs, renovations, or upgrades.
- We simply must take action soon. A modernized museum is long overdue, for safety, accessibility, and to keep irreplaceable collections safe.
- The current facilities are at the end of their useful life.
- They are seismically unsafe and vulnerable to damage.
- With climate change, we're seeing more extreme weather events.
 - If there was a flood, it's possible artifacts and irreplaceable parts of B.C.'s history would be damaged and lost forever.
- Building material does not meet modern safety standards

- For example, the building, and some exhibits like Old Town, are full of asbestos
- The building does not meet accessibility standards and we want everyone in B.C. to be able to enjoy the museum and learn about B.C.'s history.
- There are seven-million objects under our stewardship at the Royal BC Museum. Laid end-to-end, the total length of archival records would span 27 kilometers. Carrying on without major changes poses a serious risk to our collective history and precious artifacts.
- Continuing without a major redevelopment is not an option.
- That's why after decades of neglect, our government made a commitment in both the 2019 and 2020 Speech from the Throne, to protect our collective heritage and give the museum the respect it deserves. In 2019, we engaged the public about what a 21st century reimagined Royal BC Museum could look like.
- We will be doing robust public engagement on the exhibits that go into the new museum facility and feedback from the third-floor closure will absolutely be taken into consideration.

6. When will the engagement process start and how can people get involved?

- RBCM will be doing robust public engagement on the exhibits that go into the new museum facility and feedback from the third-floor closure will absolutely be taken into consideration
- There will be formal opportunities to provide input and you can sign up to be notified about these opportunities by subscribing to the [museum's newsletter through its website](#).

7. If you're trying to include all perspectives does that mean you will still have the European settler history included?

- Through the provincial archives, exhibitions, and educational programs, the Royal BC Museum tells the story of the people, places and history of our province.

- And we'd heard clearly from the community that regardless of whether we had a new facility or not, people want dynamic and interactive exhibits, a museum that builds relationships with a wide range of communities, that is a place of learning and that cultivates our living history.
- I know people are passionate about their Museum. I have heard the varying views British Columbians have expressed about the future embodiment of our past. I also want it to be very clear, not one of our histories will be erased or destroyed.
- Our exhibits will continue to tell the story of our past, just as they have done for decades. But now, we'll have the opportunity to ensure everyone, both digitally and in person, is included and everyone can experience those stories.

8. Will the museum knock down the whole building and rebuild from the ground up? Is that space big enough to create the museum of a lifetime?

- The museum's downtown facilities encompass five buildings over two hectares, curating everything from research to restoration to repatriation.
- Sadly, the facilities are at the end of their useful life. They are seismically at risk and are vulnerable to damage. In the event of a major flood, artifacts and irreplaceable parts of B.C.'s history could be damaged and lost forever.
- We must take action now. A new and modern museum is long overdue, for the safety of all visitors, to remove barriers so everyone can access it and to keep our irreplaceable collections safe. Continuing on without a major redevelopment is not an option for anyone serious about the stewardship of B.C.'s history and culture.

9. How much is all this going to cost?

- A business case has been developed and in the coming months, we will bring forward all aspects of the plan for the new museum including the project's scope and budget. I look forward to announcing next steps.

10. Do you really think this is what government should be sending taxpayer dollars on instead of focusing on pandemic recovery and the province's economic state?

- In 2019, Government undertook a public consultation to inform the modernization of the museum.
- We heard that British Columbians want us to make changes that will include the voices and experiences of the communities and people in British Columbia. People want dynamic and interactive exhibits, a museum that builds relationships with a wide range of communities, that is a place of learning and that cultivates our living history.
- I think most people in B.C. would agree with the need to fully and accurately reflect our province's history. As our province's flagship historical centre, the Royal BC Museum has a duty to curate the past with an equal responsibility to accurately reflect a timeline of our shared history.
- We must take action now. A new and modern museum is long overdue, for the safety of all visitors, to remove barriers so everyone can access it and to keep our irreplaceable collections safe. Continuing on without a major redevelopment is not an option for anyone serious about the stewardship of B.C.'s history and culture.
- A business case has been developed and in the coming months, we will bring forward all aspects of the plan for the new museum including the project's scope and budget. I look forward to announcing next steps.

11. Won't this have major financial impacts to the tourism industry in Victoria, especially at a time when the industry has been hard hit from the pandemic?

- Throughout the pandemic, the ministry has consulted extensively with business owners, sector associations and marketing organizations to hear their priorities for recovery and ideas to help British Columbia remain a globally competitive destination.

- Stronger BC: BC's Economic Recovery Plan and BC's Restart plan include a cross-government approach to help all aspects of the tourism industry recover, create jobs and grow the economy.
- The Province has committed over \$228 million in supports for the tourism sector through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The museum has served BC for a long time, and in fact, it's been decades since it's last seen any major repairs, renovations, or upgrades.
- We simply must take action soon. A modernized museum is long overdue, for safety, accessibility, and to keep irreplaceable collections safe.
- The Royal BC Museum is one of our province's greatest cultural icons and most important institutions and the modernization project has the support of Destination Greater Victoria and the City of Victoria.

12.Does the local tourism industry and the City of Victoria support this?

- The Royal BC Museum is one of our province's greatest cultural icons and most important institutions.
- It is curated and nurtured by outstanding experts and visited and beloved by hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, both locally and internationally.
- Government has the support of Destination Greater Victoria and the City of Victoria for its modernization plan for the museum.

13.How long will it take to build a new museum?

- A business case has been developed and in the coming months, we will bring forward all aspects of the plan for the new museum including the project's scope and budget. I look forward to announcing next steps.
- It will take time to build a new museum and while this work takes place, the Royal BC Museum will be showcasing select travelling exhibitions around the province and curated content in public locations in Victoria.
- As we move forward, we want to keep hearing from people and public engagement will continue to inform the modernization of the museum.

14.Does this mean admission prices and memberships are going to be more expensive?

- The museum will continue to be responsible for setting its policies, including admission prices and membership costs.

15.If you are focused on decolonization is it still going to be called the “Royal” BC Museum?

- This work is part of the museum’s efforts to modernize and change, in its facilities, programming, practices, as well as its workplace culture.
- The modernization of the museum has been a long-standing commitment by this government, made in both the current and previous mandates.

16.Are you bringing back Old Town in the new building?

- Building material in some exhibits such as Old Town, are full of asbestos and do not meet safety standards.
- The artifacts and exhibits from the 3rd floor will be reimagined and included in the new vision for the museum.
- The museum is offering additional opportunities to enjoy the galleries during third-floor closure, including webinars, pop-up and travelling exhibits, and online learning.
- The museum has also captured the galleries – including Old Town – via 3D tour, to be published online this year.

17.How will people continue to learn about B.C.’s history?

- The museum is offering additional opportunities to enjoy the galleries during third-floor closure, including webinars, pop-up and travelling exhibits, and online learning.
- The museum has also captured the galleries – including Old Town – via 3D tour, to be published online this year.

- The museum's Learning Portal and teachers' learning aids, created and managed by the museum are incredible, freely accessible online resources to learn about all aspects of BC.

18. How much funding does government give the RBCM?

- The Province provides \$11.866 million in annual operating funding to the museum, approximately 52% of the operating budget.

19. What about the IMAX?

- IMAX Victoria is not affected by the third floor closure.

20. What is the status of the collections building in Colwood and what will that house?

- We are looking forward to our new facility in Colwood to house RBCM's archives, collections and research department.
- Expected to be completed in 2025, it will provide dedicated research labs and learning spaces, and improve access for British Columbians to the museum's vast collections.
- The Collections and Research Building is making progress, including through a recent Request for Proposals provided to three proponents.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13 ; s.17