



## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### **CELEBRATING ROYALTY EXHIBIT OPENS AT MUSEUM**

VICTORIA, BC — The Royal BC Museum's latest exhibit, *Celebrating Royalty: Recollections of our royal past*, was officially opened today by The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, PC, CM, OBC, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

"This exhibit encompasses an outpouring of affection for Her Majesty, so evident during the recent Jubilee Celebrations in London," said Campagnolo. "Canada awaits a royal jubilee tour in October, promising an equal expression of respect and admiration for Her Majesty, when we will celebrate Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen of Canada by marking her fifty years of singular service and duty to us all."

The 5,000-square-foot exhibit will be on display from June 28, 2002 through December 31, 2002 and features commemorative artifacts and royal memorabilia that celebrate British Columbia's regal heritage.

"From the legendary Queen's beasts – lions, unicorns and other mythical creatures that protect the Queen's domain – to the renowned 1939 McLaughlin-Buick royal tour car, this engaging exhibit will have something for everyone," said museum CEO Pauline Rafferty.

*Celebrating Royalty: Recollections of our royal past* honours the historic reigns of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II, highlighting their lives of service that have contributed to our history and cultural identity over the last 200 years.

Fashion highlights of the exhibit include two dresses from the wardrobe of Diana, Princess of Wales. They are believed to be the only outfits on public display, other than those on exhibit at Kensington Palace. Visitors can also view the stunning "Maple Leaf Dress" that Queen Elizabeth II wore during a 1957 state banquet in Ottawa, further emphasizing her status as Queen of Canada.

Over 300 pieces of royal memorabilia from two private collections will conjure up fond memories of the royal family and their visits to B.C. Artifacts include thrones, art, ceramics, genealogical charts and family portraits. A 50-inch model of the royal yacht Britannia will be on display as well as a striking portrait of the young Queen Victoria (on loan from the University of Victoria's Maltwood Gallery).

"This is yet another milestone for the province's museum and further showcases Victoria as a world-class tourist destination," said Christine Stoneman, President of Tourism Victoria.

For further information on the museum's *Celebrating Royalty: Recollections of our royal past* exhibit, call 1-888-447-7977 or visit: [www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](http://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca).

The Royal BC Museum gratefully acknowledges the loan of Queen Elizabeth II's Maple Leaf Dress and the Queen's beasts from the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

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Contact: Chris Higgins, Royal BC Museum  
250-387-2101  
[cahiggins@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](mailto:cahiggins@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca)