

May 18, 2016

Meet 40,000-year-old baby mammoth Lyuba at the Royal BC Museum

VICTORIA, BC – A 40,000-year-old baby woolly mammoth, the best-preserved specimen in existence, will take centre stage when the *Mammoths: Giants of the Ice Age* feature exhibition opens June 3 at the Royal BC Museum.

Lyuba (pronounced Lee-OO-bah) is the world's most complete mammoth. Her remarkable discovery in the frozen soil of the Arctic in 2007 by a Siberian reindeer herder made immediate international headlines.

This will be the first opportunity to see the baby mammoth in Canada. Lyuba is on loan from the Shemanovskiy Yamal-Nenets District Museum and Exhibition Complex in northern Siberia, Russia.

"We are honoured that the Shemanovsky Museum-Exhibition Complex is loaning Lyuba to the Royal BC Museum," CEO Jack Lohman says. "Seeing this unbelievable treasure in person will allow British Columbians, and our visitors to discover how science has brought this baby mammoth's story to life. This is an example of our continued collaboration with cultural institutions across the globe to further interest in science, culture and history."

Scientists were able to retrace Lyuba's short life and determine that she was about 30 days old when she suffocated after being trapped in mud along the banks of a river. Samples of Lyuba's soft tissue and tusks suggest she was healthy at the time of her death.

A time-lapse showing the installation of Lyuba will be featured on the Royal BC Museum's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/RoyalBCMuseum) by May 31st.

Mammoths: Giants of the Ice Age is presented with lead marketing partner Tourism Victoria. The exhibition is in partnership with The Field Museum.

1. Backgrounder Attached - Lyuba

NOTE TO EDITORS: Images available for download. See Media Photos document for details.

About the Royal BC Museum

The Royal BC Museum explores the province's human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Looking to the future, the Royal BC Museum will be a refreshed, modern museum, extending its



reach far beyond Victoria as a world-class cultural venue and repository of digital treasures.

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