

May 30, 2017

## The Royal BC Museum address gaps and silences in BC history with new exhibition

VICTORIA, BC—The Royal BC Museum’s latest exhibition integrates multiple voices, perspectives and communities, challenging tired old clichés about what constitutes a family. *Family: Bonds & Belonging* opens on June 2 and is on display until October 31, 2017.

The theme of the exhibition, family, allows the museum to bring in a diversity of perspectives, and find the commonalities among them.

The story of family is told through seemingly innocuous objects from the Royal BC Museum collections: everyday items that are the witnesses to our lives. Some are familiar and some aren’t, depending on what life experiences visitors bring to the exhibition.

“This major exhibition explores the role of families in BC and what connects the past with the future,” said Prof. Jack Lohman, CEO of the Royal BC Museum. “We have brought together rarely seen treasures, albums, portraits and costumes to show that belonging is more than tradition, habit or prejudice.”

The exhibition explores how family can contribute to the idea of belonging to a nation, province, place or identity. It highlights the contributions of BC families to the nation, celebrating Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The notion of family lends itself to numerous perspectives: family as homeland, family as heritage, family as burden, family as absence and loss, family as identity.

Visitors are challenged to dismantle traditional ideas of what family is, to kick down the “white picket fence” surrounding the conventional concept of family and build a broader definition.

The exhibition explores the positive and negative aspects of family; the joy and the pain that these bonds can elicit. On this journey, dive into your own idea of family, learn about others and discover tools to begin your own genealogical research.

Visitors are encouraged to leave their own mark on the exhibition, sharing photos, audio clips and handwritten notes. Visitors can engage with the



exhibition on social media with **#RBCMFamily** to share their own family photos and impressions of the exhibition. Photos taken and shared with the tag **#RBCMFamily** will appear in a digital frame in the exhibition.

A companion book *The Language of Family: Stories of Bonds and Belonging*, will be available June 1, 2017. Twenty contributors from across British Columbia share their vastly differing perspectives on what family means in this superb collection of personal narratives, poems and essays. **Media and the public are invited to attend the free book launch on Friday June 2 at 11:00 am in Newcombe Conference Hall.**

*Family: Bonds and Belonging* is made possible through the generous support of Tourism Victoria, Helijet, the government of British Columbia, the Kermode Group and the Royal BC Museum Foundation.

***Terry Fox: Running to the Heart of Canada* #RBCMTerryFox**

The Royal BC Museum is hosting a complimentary exhibition about a great Canadian hero—Terry Fox. Terry Fox’s family set an inspiring example of the incredible strength of family bonds. Learn more about the young man who inspired the nation with his Marathon of Hope. The exhibition is on display from April 12 to October 1, 2017.

**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. We are a hub of community connections in BC— onsite, offsite and online—taking pride in our collective histories.

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