

September 27, 2017

Canada's rock star fossils kick off national tour, starting at the Royal BC Museum

VICTORIA, BC—The Royal BC Museum is the first venue for a new national travelling exhibition called *Museum's Choice: Fossil Favourites from Across Canada*, a collaboration of the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada (ANHMC).

The exhibition is on display in Clifford Carl Hall, freely accessible to the public, until Thursday, October 26.

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation, each of the eleven participating natural history museums contributed one superlative, celebrated fossil, representing significant discoveries and research at its home institution.

"Fossils have a remarkable hold on our imaginations, as tangible keys to life in the ancient past," says Royal BC Museum CEO Prof. Jack Lohman. "We hope that the Royal BC Museum's fossil, along with the others in this exhibition, will help contribute to the nation's understanding of what life looked like millions of years ago."

The Royal BC Museum's fossil selection is the teeth of the *Cornwallius Sookensis*, Vancouver Island's sea cow, which lived about 25 million years ago. This marine mammal is related to today's sea cows (Sirenia) and elephants (Proboscidea).

The fossils range in size from the tiny *Cornwallius* teeth to the enormous cast of the *Tyrannosaurus Rex* skull from the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.

As the Royal BC Museum fabricated the travelling exhibition, Victoria is the first venue, but it will soon head out onto the road for a stay at each of the ten other contributing museums between 2017 and 2019. The Canadian Museum of Nature is responsible for the scheduling and touring of the exhibition.

These institutions are the Canadian Museum of Nature, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, Redpath Museum at McGill University, Royal Alberta Museum, Royal Ontario Museum, Royal Saskatchewan Museum, Manitoba Museum, Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History and New Brunswick Museum.

About the Alliance of Natural History Museums Canada (ANHMC)

Now in its fifteenth year, the ANHMC network shares information and educates Canadians about natural history collections and museum research across the country.

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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