

# BACKGROUND

## SPECIES AT RISK

- Tiny Dark Saltflat Tiger Beetles that are 1.2cm long and huge basking sharks the size of a school bus have something in common – they, along with 1500 species, are being pushed to the brink because of habitat loss, pollution, climate change and intense competition with invasive species here in BC.
- The Royal BC Museum’s travelling exhibition *Species at Risk* highlights flora and fauna from each region of BC that are at risk of extinction. Every community visited will get to learn about local plants and animals that are at risk and what they can do to help.
- Vancouver Island Marmots, Coastal Giant Salamanders, Lewis’ Woodpeckers, White Sturgeon, Marbled Murrelets, Northern Sea Lions, Sockeye Salmon, Pallid Bats and Caribou are just a few of the species at risk discussed in the pop-up exhibition.
- The exhibition is animated by two interpreters – one from the Royal BC Museum and the other from The Robert Bateman Centre. Tablets, powered by TELUS, connected to the Royal BC Museum’s Learning Portal ([learning.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/pathways/species-at-risk/](http://learning.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/pathways/species-at-risk/)) allow visitors to read, watch, listen and look at species at risk both onsite and from home.
- Mini-Museum kits specially designed the Royal BC Museum compliment the travelling exhibition. The outreach kits include actual specimens and hands-on learning tools to give students the opportunity to study eight species at risk, from the Western Bumblebee to the Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel.
- *Species at Risk* launched last summer, in 2015. It visited more than 3,500 British Columbians in 15 towns, at 14 cultural organizations and four schools. The travelling exhibition will return next summer for its final journey.
- *Species at Risk* is housed in an inventively modified trailer produced in-house by the Royal BC Museum.
- The Royal BC Museum has a number of travelling exhibitions ([royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/exhibitions/travelling/](http://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/exhibitions/travelling/)) to connect with the diverse



communities of BC and highlight BC's stories to Canada and the world.

They include:

- *British Columbia's War, 1914–1918* (currently at CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum)
  - *Gold Rush! El Dorado in British Columbia* (currently at the Canadian Museum of History until January 15, 2017)
  - *Aliens Among Us* (currently at the Museum at Campbell River)
  - *Gold Mountain Dream!*
  - The Writing on the Wall Outreach Kits.
- *Species at Risk* is funded in part by the Government of Canada, Quality Foods, The Robert Bateman Centre, and the John and Joan Walton Innovation Fund. TELUS is the official telecommunications partner for *Species at Risk*.

### **Tour Schedule**

May 29 | Quality Foods, View Royal  
June 15 | Ecole Willow Point, Campbell River  
June 17 | Victoria Butterfly Gardens  
June 18 | Government House Garden Party  
June 19 | Car Free Day, Victoria  
June 23 | Qualicum Beach Museum  
July 1 | Canada Day Send-off, Legislature Grounds, Victoria  
July 5 | Science World at TELUS World of Science, Vancouver  
July 6 | Surrey Art Gallery and Bear Creek Park  
July 7 | Beaty Biodiversity Museum, UBC Campus  
July 9 | Kamloops Museum & Archives  
July 11 | Big Little Science Centre, Kamloops  
July 12-13 | Okanagan Science Centre  
July 18-22 | Touchstones Nelson Museum of Art and History  
July 25-August 1 | Creston and District Museum  
August 4 | Wildsight, Invermere Branch  
August 8-12 | Ktunaxa Interpretive Centre, Cranbrook  
August 15-19 | Rossland Museum and Discover Centre

### **Special Events**

Legislature Grounds, Victoria

July 1 | 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Come explore the *Species at Risk* trailer before we give it a fond farewell and it rides off into the province

- 30 -

Media are invited to visit the exhibition when it arrives in a nearby location. Please use the contact information below to arrange a time.

High resolution images of the travelling exhibition are available upon request.

**Media contact:**

Royal BC Museum Media Inquiries  
250-387-3207

[news@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](mailto:news@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca)

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