

Community Engagement Summary

Phase 1: Dialogue Sessions

Completed Dialogue Sessions

| Date | Session Type | Location | Number of Attendees |
|---|--|---------------|---------------------|
| Thursday, January 12, 2023 | General public | RBCM | 31 |
| Tuesday, January 17, 2023 | General public (day) | RBCM | 63 |
| Tuesday, January 17, 2023 | General public (evening) | RBCM | 28 |
| Friday, January 20, 2023 | Business community | RBCM | 15 |
| Wednesday, January 25, 2023 | Business community | RBCM | 14 |
| Thursday, January 26, 2023 | General public (day) | RBCM | 74 |
| Thursday, January 26, 2023 | General public (evening) | RBCM | 28 |
| Tuesday, January 31, 2023 | General public | Virtual | 30 |
| Friday, February 3, 2023 | General public | Virtual | 39 |
| Monday, February 6, 2023 | General public | Surrey | 19 |
| Monday, February 6, 2023 | General public | Vancouver | 12 |
| Tuesday, February 7, 2023 | General public | Richmond | 7 |
| Wednesday, February 15, 2023 | General public | Nanaimo | 27 |
| Friday, February 24, 2023 | GLAM* community | RBCM | 17 |
| Tuesday, February 28, 2023 | General public | Virtual | 21 |
| Sunday, March 5, 2023 | Metis Community | Richmond | 60 |
| Wednesday, March 8, 2023 | General public | Kelowna | 37 |
| Friday, March 10, 2023 | General public | Prince George | 2** |
| Monday, March 13, 2023 | First Nations Leadership Council | Virtual | 12 |
| Thursday, March 23 and Friday March 24, 2023 | Gathering our Voices: Indigenous Youth | Vancouver | 30 |
| Monday, March 27, 2023 | Educators and students (Camosun College) | Victoria | 9 |
| Wednesday, March 29, 2023 | General public | Nelson | 5 |
| Thursday, March 30, 2023 | General public | Cranbrook | 7 |
| Monday, April 3, 2023 | General public | Prince Rupert | 2 |
| Thursday, April 6, 2023 | General public | Fort St. John | 21 |

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|--|--------------------------|----------|------------|
| Thursday, April 14 and Friday, April 15, 2023 | Provincial First Nations | Victoria | 29*** |
| Total attendees | | | 639 |
| Total sessions | | | 26 |

**Galleries, libraries, art galleries and museums*

*** Despite a dozen RSVPs, only two people attended including the Mayor of Prince George and the team used the time to garner valuable feedback. As well RBCM team members visited with the Prince George Museum's team and UNBC faculty earlier in the day.*

**** Representing 21 Indigenous communities.*

Common themes raised by participants and discussed in-session

- It is important for the museum to work directly with Indigenous communities to include stories with the artifacts to provide authentic context.
- Many of the belongings in the museum were taken without permission from Indigenous communities. The RBCM needs to go back to each nation and ask for permission to hold these items or return them to the nations to build trust.
- When working with First Nations timelines need to be led by the nations and not dictated by the museum.
- Discussions around the modern role of a museum and comments about the lack of modern history within the museum.
- RBCM can add additional advocacy support for Indigenous communities including updating archaeological policies.
- Terminology for repatriation is flawed and there needs to be a reframing of the work ahead, based on consent.
- Emphasizing the need for co-creation. The importance of the museum as a place to hold history, and to facilitate learning and storytelling.
- How communities in Northern BC often feel isolated and are looking to the RBCM to help bring the province together through shared histories and culture.
- The importance of supporting local museums, year round, and sharing resources and expertise.
- Confusion about the separation between Indigenous view of history and settler view – agree better integration is needed.
- Students felt less of a connection with the 'old' museum and excited to see what is new and the future.
- How the RBCM can help drive visitors across the province by sharing stories of communities from all over BC, inspiring visitation of museums and communities.

- Systems in place to protect archaeological heritage are often lacking. Museum should advocate to the Province for stronger controls and enforcement.
- Questions on how the RBCM can correct mis information regarding the history of many communities across the province. It is an important advocacy role.
- Questions on how the museum will be including diverse communities including LGBTQ + and those with accessibility challenges, autism. The importance of including diverse opinions and multicultural voices, as well as the ongoing role of engagement. The importance of Cultural and diverse communities as well as partnerships (i.e., Youth Advisory Council, UVIC, LGBTQ2S+)
- The importance of integrating a greater diversity of cultures into the stories that reflect BC's history.
- Mention and discussion time around cost of location/getting to Victoria to the museum for those from this area - far away and costly. Suggestion of "satellite" or other campus museums around the province. Stronger collaboration with community museums and cultural institutions.
- Clarity on the future of the third floor (including Old Town), with confirmation from the Royal BC Museum at each session that Old Town had not been demolished and the community would be invited to help reimagine the space in the future.
- The Royal BC Museum's model for admission fees, and how the museum could be more accessible.
- Repatriation and the relationship between the museum and Indigenous communities.
- How the current climate crisis might be reflected through a reimagined Climate Change Gallery (in the Natural History Gallery), one that is more reflective of current research, knowledge and action.
- Funding models to support the Royal BC Museum's growth and infrastructure needs.
- The importance of ensuring the Royal BC Museum has strong and supportive relationships with other cultural organizations and groups across the province.
- School access to the museum, while free, how to handle cost of transportation.
- How to become more involved, via volunteer programs and career opportunities.
- The importance of having more interactive exhibits for younger audiences.
- Concerns over how the RBCM is being portrayed in the media and how the museum is combatting negative sentiment.
- Challenges by regional museums in protecting artifacts and information via digitization and how the RBCM can support.

- Questions on how the RBCM can better reflect the history and culture of BC's regions like the Okanagan and Northern BC, Vancouver Island and the coast.

Upcoming Dialogue Sessions

- **Port Hardy, BC** **Monday, May 15, 2023** **6:00—8:00 p.m.**
- **Smithers, BC** **Tuesday, May 23, 2023** **6:00—8:00 p.m.**

Please check back at www.rbcm.ca/engage for updates.

