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The Royal BC Museum welcomes new Head of the First Nations Department and Repatriation Program

VICTORIA, BC—The Royal BC Museum welcomes the return of an old colleague in a new role.

On January 12, 2017, Lucy Bell joined the Royal BC Museum as the new Head of the First Nations Department and Repatriation Program. A member of the Haida Nation, Ms. Bell served most recently at the Haida Heritage and Repatriation Society, where **she has been at the forefront of the Nation’s repatriation programme.**

“I am delighted to welcome Lucy Bell from the Haida Nation as our new Head of Department at the museum” said Royal BC Museum CEO Prof. Jack Lohman. “She will focus on revitalising our First Peoples gallery, assisting with repatriation and ensuring that indigenous perspectives are mainstreamed into our work.”

Ms. Bell graduated from the University of British Columbia, where she majored in anthropology. She completed her MA in Indigenous Language Revitalization at the University of Victoria, where she also received a Diploma in Cultural Resource Management. She began her career in 1995 at the Royal BC Museum as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Stewardship Program and has since developed, delivered and managed an array of pioneering initiatives aimed at increasing awareness of First Nations culture.

“It’s great that the Royal BC Museum repatriated *me* back,” said Ms. Bell, “as my Haida repatriation journey began here at this museum. In this role I look forward to helping other nations bring their ancestral remains and cultural treasures home. I am excited that my voice, along with other aboriginal voices, will be heard at the museum.”

Since 2005 Ms. Bell has coordinated the return of more than five hundred Haida ancestors from museums throughout North America and the United Kingdom. The documentary [Stolen Spirits of Haida Gwaii](#) charts the success of just one strand of this remarkable programme.

Ms. Bell has presented on both repatriation and language revitalization at several conferences around the world, advised on the development of a number of exhibitions on Indigenous culture, and promoted Haida culture in both print and broadcast media.

Ms. Bell will be leading a new department at the Royal BC Museum, bringing the former ethnology and archaeology departments onto one team.

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.



Media contact:

Royal BC Museum Media Inquiries

250-387-5051

news@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

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