

MEDIA ADVISORY

Bill Barkley (April 4, 1941 - July 12, 2016)

On July 12, 2016, Bill Barkley, who led the Royal BC Museum as its Chief Executive Officer from 1984 to 2001, passed away. Barkley left an important and enduring legacy at the museum and archives.

Barkley was born in New Westminster and attended the University of BC (UBC), graduating with a BSc in Honours Zoology in 1964. He received a secondary teaching certificate from the University of Victoria (UVic) in 1965 and taught high school in Salmon Arm from 1965 - 1968. During the summers, Barkley worked as a Park Naturalist for the BC Parks Branch.

In 1968, Barkley moved to Midland, Ontario to create and run the first Canadian Wildlife Service outdoor education centre for the Federal Department of Environment, a post he held until 1972.

He returned to BC in 1977 as Assistant Director of the BC Provincial Museum. He then held the post of CEO of the Royal BC Museum from 1984 to 2001. He oversaw the Royal BC Museum as it expanded into new fields of public programming; hosted and developed international travelling exhibitions; and made significant changes in its relationships with governments and the **community at large**. **Barkley's** leadership established a model for Royal BC Museum staff and their role province-wide.

Barkley wrote numerous articles and was a sessional lecturer at UVic in the Cultural Resource Management Program. He also served on a number of associations and boards, including the Advisory Committee on the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the Canadian Museums Association (CMA), the BC Museum Association (BCMA), the Virtual Museum of Canada, the Canadian Federation of Friends of Museums, the Canadian Nature Federation, the Federation of BC Naturalists and the Victoria Natural History Society.

Barkley played a significant role supporting and developing the museum community throughout the province and the country. He served as both a BCMA Councillor and President of the CMA (1985-87). As a mentor and consistent supporter of the BCMA, its members and young people, Barkley was recognized as an inspiring, accessible leader.



Barkley received numerous awards throughout his career, including the honorary title of Fellow of the Canadian Museum Association (FCMA). He received the Canada 125 Anniversary medal from the Government of Canada for his work in museums. Interpretation Canada presented him with a distinguished service award for his work in natural history public interpretation. For his work with the tourism industry Bill received the GEM Award, Tourism Leader of the Year Award (Finalist) and the Miracle Award. In 1999 was given the Award of Excellence by the Canadian Museums Association for the exhibit and programming related to the exhibition *Leonardo da Vinci – Scientist, Inventor, Artist*.

Later in life Barkley worked as an independent consultant, focusing on planning, management, and teaching for museums and related institutions.

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.

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