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BC MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION TAKES TO THE ROAD WITH HANDS-ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Spring workshops focus on storage and re-organization, de-accessioning and visitor-focused programming

VICTORIA, BC – The BC Museums Association (BCMA) is visiting communities across the province with hands-on learning opportunities that will give museum staff and volunteers practical skills to help them better manage their collections and attract more visitors.

Spring cleaning for museums? Absolutely! BCMA is pleased to partner with the Canadian Conservation Institute to bring the RE-ORG storage management program to **Parksville (March 16)**. In the three days before this conference, RE-ORG: Canada West participants, including Haida Gwaii Museum, Greater Vernon Museum and Archives and Qualicum Beach Museum, have worked together to reorganize a storage room at the Parksville Museum as a way to put their learning into action and provide support to the Parksville Museum.

As museum collections grow, storage space can become limited causing a strain on staff time and resources. Luc Demarais will visit **Abbotsford (March 19)** and **Quesnel (April 30)** to help small museums lay the groundwork for collection clean-up and de-accessioning. Luc will discuss issues such as policy, inventory and the ethics of disposal to make sure organizations are set up for success before they start on the long road to de-accessioning.

Building new audiences and converting occasional visitors into returning visitors and members is key for the ongoing success and survival of community museums. Kim Gough and Pamela Morris will be in **Dawson Creek (May 25)** to help participants use the Design Thinking process to create new programs with visitors, instead of for them. This process is scalable for different types and sizes of organizations, and uses empathy, ideation and experimentation to arrive at innovative solutions that visitors want.

“BCMA helps museum staff and volunteers gain practical skills in the business of running a museum,” says BCMA Executive Director Erica Mattson. “This is a fantastic opportunity to learn from the best, and participants will return to their organizations with new ideas and knowledge.”

Collections management and storage are critical issues for B.C.’s museum sector. In Canada, it is estimated that the 37% of storage facilities were inadequate and that 93% of storage areas would be full within 10 years (source: [Collections Survey 2008/2009](#) by the Canadian Art Museum Directors' Conference (CAMDO)).

Full workshop descriptions and registration information are available at <http://museumsassn.bc.ca/professional-development/upcoming-events/regional-workshops/>

We gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia and the support of the Sikh Heritage Museum, the Quesnel & District Museum and Archives and the South Peace Historical Society.



Quick facts

- The BC Museums Association has over 400 members located in communities across B.C.
- Total revenues for B.C.'s museums sector are estimated at over \$213 million annually.
- An estimated 4,000 people are employed by B.C.'s museums sector.
- Over 21,000 volunteers provide over 1 million hours of volunteer work each year.
- B.C. museums attracted over 8.6 million visitors in 2013, with an additional 21 million online visits to museums' digital collections and programming.
- 20,348 school groups visited B.C. museums in 2013.
- The collections of B.C. museums include over 4 million artifacts and objects, 663,896 linear meters of textual records, close to 12 million graphic materials, over 53,000 natural history/scientific specimens, 36,307 hours of film, video and sound recordings and 2,093 permanent exhibitions.

Source: Government of Canada Survey of Heritage Institutions: 2015

About the BC Museums Association:

Founded in 1957, the BC Museums Association represents the institutions, trustees, professional staff and volunteers of the BC museum, gallery, cultural centre and heritage site community. The BCMA supports the industry through advocacy, networking, an annual conference and professional development training opportunities such as regional workshops and webinars. For more information about the BCMA and its activities, please visit www.museumsassn.bc.ca.

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