

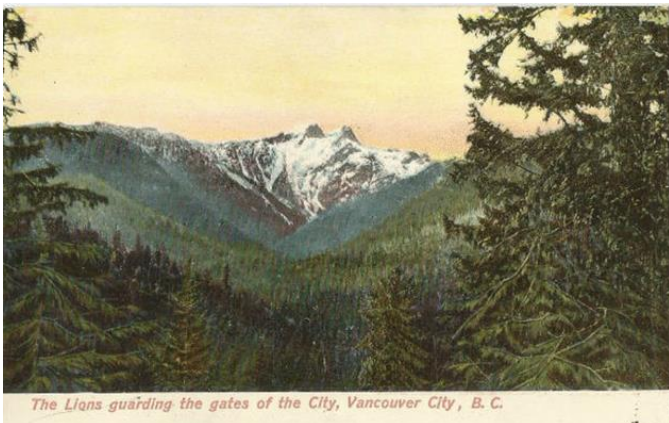
**CONTRACT CURATORIAL RESEARCHER NEEDED
TO ASSIST IN ORGANIZING A TEMPORARY EXHIBITION
FOR THE NEW MUSEUM OF NORTH VANCOUVER
(OPENING EARLY 2020)**

The Opportunity

- An experienced researcher and writer with subject matter background in regional history (some knowledge of Coast Salish stories and culture, local mountaineering history and/or local cultural geography are preferred) is sought to conduct research, locate exhibit materials, write exhibit text, and assist in organizing the first temporary exhibition at the new Museum of North Vancouver (scheduled to open in February 2020). Some experience in museum exhibit work is desired.
- Working with NVMA staff in collaboration with NVMA's Indigenous Voices Advisory Committee, and reporting to the Curator, the Curatorial Researcher will independently undertake research for an exhibition exploring the cultural significance, history and geography of the distinctive twin mountain peaks that provide the scenic backdrop to Vancouver and the North Shore.

The Exhibition – The Lions/The Sisters : Mountains, Myth, Muse (tentative title)

- Known as "The Sisters" (*Ch'ich'iyúy Elxwikn*) by Coast Salish people, and named "The Lions" by settlers due to their supposed resemblance to the lion monuments in London's Trafalgar Square, these twin peaks of the Coast Mountain range tower over the first narrows of Burrard Inlet.
- A Salish legend recounted by Chief Joe Capilano to writer Pauline Johnson told the story of how two sisters, daughters of a Salish Chief, brought peace to this region and were immortalized and lifted up to the mountains to forever keep watch over the people below.
- The exhibit will explore the mythic qualities and *genius loci* (spirit of place) of these iconic symbols of the Vancouver area, including how early settlers adopted and interpreted the peaks' creation story.
- Settlers to the region considered the peaks to be "guarding the gates" of the City and named Burrard Inlet's first narrows "the lions gate". The appellation "lions gate" was in common use by the mid-1890s and has since been adopted by numerous businesses and organizations in the Vancouver area.
- First climbed by settlers in the 1880s, the peaks continue to this day to attract mountain adventurers, captivate tourists and inspire artists, writers and musicians.



Early 20th c postcard of "The Lions guarding the gates of the City".



Swimming in a small lake near The Lions, 1942 (NVMA 1983-042).

- The exhibition will be installed in a new 1,400 sq. ft. temporary exhibit gallery.
- It will include video and audio components, and engagement activities, in addition to objects and artefacts.
- Exhibit materials will draw on NVMA's archival and artefact collections as well as other local resources.
- Potential display materials include photographs, postcards, and souvenirs; books and publications; artwork; video and audio recordings; oral history interviews; archival documents; maps, and artefacts, as well as items that represent the many organizations named after the Lions and the Lions Gate.

The Contract

- Contract period: October 2018 through July 2019
- Contract fee: \$16,000 total (\$1,600 per month, billed by contractor)

Application information

- Please apply no later than August 1, 2018.
- Include a resume and cover letter stating your interest in and qualifications for this contract.
- Applications should be submitted to: nvmac@dnv.org with the words "Curatorial Researcher" in the subject line.

North Vancouver Museum & Archives Commission

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Online: www.nvma.ca

Telephone: 604.9903700

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Posted: June 7, 2018