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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nanaimo Museum & Nanaimo Archives

### **Joint project to collect Nanaimo's COVID-19 Stories Launched**

Nanaimo – The Nanaimo Museum and Nanaimo Community Archives are partnering on a large-scale project to collect Nanaimo's COVID-19 history. The project will unfold in phases to collect stories from our community through an online questionnaire, photos, artifacts, and interviews.

During this unprecedented time, both organizations felt a responsibility to document local history for the future. "There is considerable urgency to record and preserve what's going on in Nanaimo right now. This is our chance to capture how Nanaimoites are responding and adapting to a global crisis as it is unfolding," says Christine Muetzner, Manager of the Nanaimo Community Archives. "We are proud to partner with the Nanaimo Museum on what may be the most important material we, as organizations, ever collect."

The project is an open invitation for citizens of Nanaimo and the surrounding area to contribute their thoughts and reflections while history is being made. Although both organizations are closed to the public at this time, staff are working behind the scenes and encourage people to send stories, photos and even ideas for potential artifacts through the web portal system. The stories and objects collected will be kept as archival records & artifacts, which could potentially be used in future exhibitions and as primary research material for future generations.

Collection is expected to continue even after the immediate crisis is over as people process the impact of this global event in their own lives. "Everyone's lives have been impacted in some way due to COVID-19 or the public health restrictions. The COVID-19 health situation is a significant historical event and it is important to document Nanaimo's response during these challenging times," notes Aimee Greenaway, Curator at the Nanaimo Museum, "especially the way community members reacted, adapted and the ways we supported each other."

If you or anyone you know would like to add your voice to this story, you can contribute your stories, photos, thoughts and more through the collection portal on the museum's website at <http://nanaimomuseum.ca/covid-19-project/>

For more information about the Nanaimo Museum and Nanaimo Archives as well as updates about this project and our other activities, please follow us on social media @NanaimoMuseum and @NanaimoArchives.

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