



For Immediate Release

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Collaboration plays role in premiere of First Peoples' film at RBCM

VICTORIA, BC – The product of a partnership between the BC Treaty Commission and the Royal BC Museum premiered today in Victoria. *First Peoples of British Columbia*, a six-minute, large-format multimedia presentation celebrating BC First Nations, will run 10 times a day on the two-storey, three-dimensional map in the museum lobby.

Produced by David Douglas and Diane Roberts of Salt Spring Island's West Eagle Films, *First Peoples of British Columbia* was eight months in development, and was financially supported by the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. The First Nations Leadership Council – including the First Nations Summit, Union of BC Indian Chiefs and BC Assembly of First Nations – participated in theme and script development.

"This multimedia map presentation represents, for me, the end of the era of conflict and the beginning of understanding and reconciliation," said Chief Commissioner Steven Point of the BC Treaty Commission. "This map shows the number and diversity of First Nations who were here for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans and who are still here."

"Improving relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples and sharing First Nations history and culture in BC are important parts of the New Relationship with First Nations," said Michael de Jong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. "I'm pleased that the Province contributed \$50,000 towards this very worthwhile project. It is an important showcase for all the thousands of visitors who come to the museum."

First Peoples of British Columbia blends more than 35 minutes of newly shot film with archival film and photographs. The multimedia presentation offers a realistic portrayal of First Nations history in the province, including the often-devastating impacts of European explorers on First Peoples.

"It's historically accurate and sadly, history isn't always kind," said RBCM CEO Pauline Rafferty. "But this film project also shows the strength and endurance of British Columbia's First Peoples, how cultures and traditions have survived and evolved into the 21st century. We are proud to tell this story at the Royal BC Museum."

First Peoples of British Columbia may be viewed daily, free of charge, in the Royal BC Museum lobby.

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