

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2013

Planning for New First Nations language exhibit to begin on International Mother Language Day

Vancouver, B.C. - Two prominent B.C. organizations and B.C. First Nations language experts will celebrate International Mother Language Day by commencing work on a B.C. First Nations Language Exhibit.

On Thursday February 21, at the Musqueam Cultural Centre in Vancouver, the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) and the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) will take the first step in the development of the exhibition by hosting a meeting with First Nations cultural experts from across the province. These community language champions and artists will be providing their knowledge and skills to work toward telling the story of B.C.'s languages through a First Nations' perspective.

"We are looking forward to working with our community partners and the RBCM on this innovative and inspiring project," says Tracey Herbert, Executive Director of the FPCC. "Our new partnership with RBCM is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate B.C.'s unique First Nations cultures."

Inspired by their belief that robust expressions of First Nations' identities are key to the health and well being of First Nations and all British Columbians, the FPCC and the RBCM will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU outlines an agreement to share professional expertise and examine other future opportunities to promote the understanding of First Nations cultures in B.C., as well as the work of both organizations.

"The first fruit of this relationship will be a new gallery at the Royal BC Museum dedicated to First Nations' languages," says Professor Jack Lohman, Chief Executive Officer of the RBCM. "The voices of tradition will give us valuable lessons about how to show respect and grounding for a diversity of voices and multiplicity of interpretations of First Nations."

B.C. is home to 34 First Nations languages and 61 dialects.

-30-

Media Contact:

Susan De Stephanis
First Peoples' Cultural Council
Tel: (250) 652-5952, ext 216
Email: susan@fpcc.ca
Website: www.fpcc.ca

Royal BC Museum
Tel: (250) 387-3207
Email: news@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca
Website: www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) is a provincial Crown Corporation created by Government of British Columbia legislation in 1990 to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture program. Its mandate is to assist B.C. First Nations in their efforts to revitalize their languages, arts and cultures. FPCC's programs and expertise are recognized nationally and internationally. Since its inception, the FPCC has distributed over \$25 million to First Nations communities in B.C. for language, arts and culture projects.

About the Royal BC Museum

As the provincial museum and archives, the Royal BC Museum preserves and shares the stories of British Columbia - on-site, off-site and online - through its research, collections, exhibitions, publications and educational programs. Its two-hectare cultural precinct in Victoria also includes a number of historically significant buildings and First Nations sites.

For more information about the Royal BC Museum, visit www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca or call 1-888-447-7977.