

March 30, 2017

### It's all relative at the Royal BC Museum's newest feature exhibition

VICTORIA, BC—Can you choose your family? Or is it determined by blood? This is the central question of the Royal BC Museum's newest feature exhibition, *Family: Bonds and Belonging*, open June 2 to October 31, 2017.

Visitors are challenged to dismantle traditional ideas of what family is, to kick down the "white picket fence" surrounding the conventional concept of family and build a broader definition.

Looking at historic and contemporary First Nations, settler and recent immigrant families together, visitors can draw connections between different manifestations of family. They will discover the universal themes that unite families across these differences.

The story of family is told through seemingly innocuous objects: everyday items that are the witnesses to our lives. Some are familiar and some aren't, depending on what life experiences visitors bring to the exhibition.

"This major exhibition explores the role of families in BC and what connects the past with the future," said Prof. Jack Lohman, CEO of the Royal BC Museum. "We can't be sure what future generations will know about our lives in order to understand their own so we have brought together rarely seen treasures, albums, portraits and costumes to show that belonging is more than tradition, habit or prejudice."

The exhibition explores the positive and negative aspects of family; the joy and the pain that these bonds can elicit. On this journey, delve into your own idea of family, learn about others and discover tools to begin your own genealogical research.

Visitors can engage with the exhibition on social media with **#RBCMFamily** to share their own family photos and impressions of the exhibition.

A companion book *The Language of Family: Stories of Bonds and Belonging*, will be available June 1, 2017. Twenty contributors from across British Columbia share their vastly differing perspectives on what family means in this superb collection of personal narratives, poems and essays.



*Family: Bonds and Belonging* is made possible through the generous support of Tourism Victoria, the Kermodé Group and the Royal BC Museum Foundation.

***Terry Fox: Running to the Heart of Canada #RBCMTerryFox***

The Royal BC Museum is hosting a complimentary exhibition about a great Canadian hero—Terry Fox. Terry Fox’s family set an inspiring example of the incredible strength of family bonds. Learn more about the young man who inspired the nation with his Marathon of Hope. The exhibition is on display from April 12 to October 1, 2017.

**About the Royal BC Museum**

The Royal BC Museum explores the province’s human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Looking to the future, the Royal BC Museum will be a refreshed, modern museum, extending its reach far beyond Victoria as a world-class cultural venue and repository of digital treasures.

- 30 -

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