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Step Back into the Ice Age and Walk Among Giants at the Royal BC Museum

Victoria, BC – From 2.6 million to 10,000 years ago, parts of British Columbia were covered in ice and mammoths roamed around the province. As the climate changed these colossal creatures disappeared from the face of the earth – leaving us to wonder why.

The Royal BC Museum is excited to bring mammoths back to BC in the feature exhibition ***Mammoths: Giants of the Ice Age***, opening June 3rd. “Woolly,” the beloved mammoth in the Museum’s Natural History gallery, is welcoming companions from around the world.

The most famous friend joining Woolly is Lyuba [pronounced LOO-bah], a 40,000 year-old baby woolly mammoth. The best preserved specimen in existence, Lyuba was discovered in the frozen soil of the Arctic in 2007 by a Siberian reindeer herder and is on loan from the Shemanovskiy Yamal-Nenets District Museum and Exhibition Complex in Russia.

“We’re particularly excited to showcase Lyuba at the Royal BC Museum because she represents both the local and international story of the Ice Age,” explains Royal BC Museum’s CEO Jack Lohman. “When this continent was connected to Siberia by the Bering Land Bridge, mammoths just like Lyuba would have been found all over British Columbia, including right here in Victoria.”

Mammoths: Giants of the Ice Age will allow visitors to step back in time and walk among life-sized models of these massive creatures, as well as mastodons, short-faced bears and giant sloths. The interactive exhibition featuring immersive multimedia, real mammoth tusks and mastodon teeth, and scientific advances in our understanding of these creatures, is presented in partnership with Chicago’s Field Museum.

Scientists have been researching the impacts of our current climactic event on the plants and animals of today. A handful, including Royal BC Museum staff, are now looking at the Ice Age to see what can be learned and applied to climate change today. This trailblazing science relies on the holdings of institutions like the Royal BC Museum who collect and analyze fossils and other specimens that provide a snapshot in time and can be used for research both now and in the future.

Coinciding with the exhibition, the Royal BC Museum will unveil a major update to the entrance of its Natural History gallery, home of the iconic Woolly Mammoth. Hands-on, interactive displays will present the latest scientific and archeological discoveries, revealing our most complete understanding to date of life in British Columbia during the Ice Age.



IMAX Victoria will also screen a companion film, *Mammoths: Titans of the Ice Age*, coming to life on the giant screen starting June 3.

For more information and a full calendar of exhibition-related special events, including summer kids camps, visit www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca and follow **#RBCMammoths**.

Mammoths! Giants of the Ice Age is presented with lead marketing partner Tourism Victoria.

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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