

MEDIA ADVISORY

August 21, 2018

Royal BC Museum accepts spectacular collection of 52 million-year-old fossils

VICTORIA, BC – The Royal BC Museum has gratefully accepted a significant collection of Eocene Epoch fossils from the McAbee Fossil Beds Heritage Site in BC, near Cache Creek.

The collection, of an estimated 18,000 specimens, was made by the late John Leahy, who co-managed the site while it was under mineral tenure.

Staff from the Royal BC Museum will thank Leahy's family for the donation at an event on Thursday, August 23 at 11:00 am.

Select fossils from this remarkable trove will be on display, and Royal BC Museum experts will be on hand to explain their significance to media.

Minister Lana Popham will also be on hand to announce a BC-wide campaign encouraging citizens to vote for an official "Provincial Fossil."

Date: Thursday August 23

Time: 11:00 am-12:00 am

Location: Royal BC Museum

MEDIA: check in at the **Security Desk**, main floor, at 10:45 am.

Available for interviews:

- Angela Williams, Deputy CEO, Royal BC Museum
- Minister Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture (attending on behalf of the Province of British Columbia)
- Dr. Richard Hebda, Royal BC Museum Curator Emeritus (previously Curator of Botany and Earth History)
- Bernita Wienhold-Leahy (widow of John Leahy)

To attend, please contact news@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca or call 250-208-8846.

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