

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Royal BC Museum Collections Get an Online Makeover**

**VICTORIA, BC** – The Royal BC Museum has recently introduced a new online access to British Columbia's human and natural history collections. This project is the first time the Royal BC Museum's vast museum and archival collections have been integrated and online, and are now available on the web for anyone to access from the comforts of their home.

This significant step forward to achieving the Royal BC Museum's vision for the future includes a new web search which draws information from the Royal BC Museum's integrated Collection Management System (CMS). The CMS manages all museum and archival collections in a single database and was developed in partnership with Minisis Inc., a Canadian company with local and international presence.

The Royal BC Museum's collection online search tool draws information from the Collections Management system and was developed by eSolutions Group. "We are very pleased to have collaborated with eSolutionsGroup on this milestone project," says Gary Mitchell, Director of Collections, Research and Access Services. "This online search tool is one of the most significant access initiatives undertaken by the Royal BC Museum, because the archives, artifacts and specimens within the provincial collections are now accessible to the researching and general public, many for the first time since the museum was established in 1886."

Our collections, the "heart" of the Royal BC Museum, provide multiple opportunities for researchers and anyone interested in BC history, from across Canada and around the world. The new search tool enables online visitors to use the collections to explore and reveal new insights into the natural history and human history stories of BC. They can export details of specific artifacts in PDF format, perform cross-disciplinary searches of the Archaeology, Ethnology and Modern History archives, view thumbnail and detailed views of artifact images, and access a wealth of other features through this single online interface.

"This web launch is a major step forward in the Royal BC Museum's vision to engage British Columbians to further explore and research their own stories," says Pauline Rafferty, Chief Executive Officer of the Royal BC Museum. "For the first time in our 125 years of operation, our public will be able to search across the entire provincial collection, 24x7 and 365 days a year, in a way that is most relevant to them."

Today, you can search the Archaeology, Ethnology and Modern History collections by entering the common name, type, description, catalogue number or any additional information of the object of interest. The remaining collections will come online beginning in January, 2011

You can search the Royal British Columbia Museum Collection at  
[http://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Collect\\_Research/Search\\_Coll.aspx](http://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Collect_Research/Search_Coll.aspx)

The Royal BC Museum, a provincial Crown corporation, collects, preserves and interprets artifacts, specimens and documents that tell the story of British Columbia. As the provincial museum and archives, the RBCM proudly shares that story with the world through its research, exhibitions and public programs.

For more information on the latest activities, events and exhibitions at the Royal BC Museum, visit [www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](http://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca) or call 1-888-447-7977.

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Media Contact: Royal BC Museum Media Enquiries  
Tel: 250-387-3207  
[news@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](mailto:news@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca)

E-Solutions Media Enquiries  
Tel: 519-884-7780 ext. 5212  
[tasmith@esolutionsgroup.ca](mailto:tasmith@esolutionsgroup.ca)