



2423 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, BC V8L 1X5
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For Immediate Release

Indigenous languages featured in interactive exhibition at the Sidney Museum

Sidney, British Columbia, April 10, 2024 - How many of us in BC can say “hello” in the language of the people on whose traditional territory we live, work and play?

You might find yourself expanding your vocabulary and appreciation for the state of Indigenous languages spoken in BC after visiting the Sidney Museum to view the *Our Living Languages: First Peoples’ Voices in BC* travelling exhibition.

Learn what First Nations communities throughout the province are doing to help 34 different languages survive and flourish, in *Our Living Languages*, a beautifully designed exhibition from the Royal BC Museum and First Peoples’ Cultural Council that celebrates the resilience and diversity of Indigenous languages in the face of change.

Languages, especially the languages we grow up with, are powerful and potent markers of identity and culture. BC, one of the planet’s most linguistically diverse regions, is known as a linguistic “hotspot” because of the diversity and vitality of the First Nations languages in BC.

Through interactive stations, video and audio, *Our Living Languages First Peoples’ Voices in BC* provides visitors with the opportunity to learn more about the history of disrupted languages in BC, the complexity of these languages, and the people—and entire communities—that are working tirelessly to document and revitalize them.

The Sidney Museum will also highlight information about the local ƵSÁNEĆ language, SENĆOŦEN. After noticing a decline in the use of SENĆOŦEN amongst his people due to government policies and residential schools, Dave Elliott added lessons to the curriculum of the Tsartlip Indian Day School and in 1978 created the SENĆOŦEN alphabet. Since then, ƵSÁNEĆ communities have undergone tremendous efforts to carry forward the language in programs such as immersion experiences in schools and adult lessons.

We respectfully acknowledge the Sidney Museum & Archives is located in Sidney/SET, TINES on the territory of the ƵSÁNEĆ People including the BOŶÉŶEN (Pauquachin), STÁ,UTW (Tsawout), ƵJOĒĒLP (Tsartlip) and ƵSĶEM (Tseycum) First Nations.



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Members of the public are invited to attend a blessing ceremony, by representatives from the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council, to mark the opening of the exhibit which will be held at the Sidney Museum on Monday April 15th at 10:00am.

Our Living Languages First Peoples' Voices in BC runs from April 15-July 24, 2024 at the Sidney Museum.

The Sidney Museum is located at 2423 Beacon Avenue, in the lower level of the Olde Post Office building. The Museum is open seven days a week from 10:00am-4:00pm. Entrance is by donation. Please visit sidneymuseum.ca for more details on the current and upcoming exhibitions.

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For more information contact:

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