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First among provinces, BC's GLAM sector signs MOU to build capacity for learning and discovery

Minister Peter Fassbender joins partners at Surrey City Centre Library for the historic event

Surrey, BC – The British Columbia Museums Association (BCMA), the British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) and the Archives Association of BC (AABC) announced the creation of a new partnership that formalizes cooperation amongst the province's GLAM sector (galleries, libraries, archives and museums).

The BCMA, BCLA and AABC signed a memorandum of understanding outlining the organizations' commitment to share expertise, embark on collaborative research projects, explore public outreach opportunities and identify joint funding ventures to strengthen the sector.

"B.C.'s galleries, museums, archives and libraries are vital cultural assets in communities throughout our province," said the Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. "With these key organizations working in unison to benefit B.C.'s vibrant creative sector, it will strengthen our social, cultural and economic well-being, and enhance the quality of life for British Columbians."

In 2017, the partners will work together on a symposium for GLAM organizations and establish a new award to acknowledge and celebrate exceptional professionals and projects in the GLAM sector.

"As memory institutions, galleries, libraries, archives and museums have much in common," said David Alexander, President, BC Museum Association. "We preserve and share knowledge and culture, and act as a spark for creation, understanding and connection."

"This partnership represents our values in action," said Daphne Wood, President of the BC Library Association. "We are proud to support the exchange of ideas and to provide the foundation for new discoveries by individuals and communities across the province."

"The Archives Association of BC is excited to work closer with the BCLA and BCMA to highlight the vital role archives play in their work behind the scenes in the enabling of the finished product; the book, the exhibit, the PhD thesis, genealogical research or the newspaper article," said Cindy McLellan, President, Archives Association of BC.

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About the organizations

The **British Columbia Museums Association (BCMA)** creates a bright future for British Columbia's museum, gallery, and related heritage communities through networking, advocacy, innovation, and professional development. It acts as the cultural and heritage information hub for British Columbia while providing a unified voice for the sector.

<http://museumsassn.bc.ca/>

The **British Columbia Library Association (BCLA)** leads the library community in advocacy, professional development, and support of intellectual freedom. It ensures that all British Columbians have equitable access to information, ideas and works of the imagination.

<https://bclaconnect.ca/>

The **Archives Association of British Columbia (AABC)** fosters the development of the provincial archival community to better preserve and promote access to British Columbia's documentary heritage. <http://aabc.ca/>

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