

## **COLLECTIONS RISK ASSESSMENT AT THE ROYAL BC MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES**

Kasey Lee<sup>1\*</sup>, Delphine Castles<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Conservation Services Manager,

<sup>2</sup> Human History Collections Manager

Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

klee [at] royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

\* Author for correspondence

The Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM) has a large and valuable collection of archival records, artifacts, specimens, and associated information pertaining to the human and natural history of the Province of British Columbia, Canada. In 2005 the RBCM conducted a comprehensive risk assessment to identify and quantify the potential impact of various threats to the collections (Risk Assessment & Mitigation at the RBCM, Brewer 2006). In 2010, those efforts were repeated, once again using the Cultural Property Risk Analysis Model (CPRAM; Waller 2003), in order to document risk reduction and identify new and emerging risks to the collections.

The exercise proved challenging and enlightening for those involved. The Manager of Conservation Services led a team of preservation staff, collection managers and facilities specialists, eventually including over 30 staff members, and completing the project over a period of seven months. Accurate inventories of collections and associated documentation were completed. Some risk related assumptions were confirmed and new issues came to light.

As a result of the 2010 risk assessment, a Risk Management Implementation Plan has been developed to address the most serious and imminent threats to the collections. Staff work plans have been modified to focus on risk reduction in these areas. Options for funding major risk mitigation projects are being explored and a plan devised to secure outside resources. Most timely, however, is the contribution that this information has made to the planning of a new collections storage facility, scheduled to open on the same site in 2017.

### **References**

Brewer, Kasey and Grant Hughes. 2006 Risk Assessment and Mitigation at the Royal BC Museum. Presented at the 32nd Annual Conference & Workshop of the Canadian Association for Conservation ,

Waller, Robert. 2003. Cultural Property Risk Analysis Model: Development and Application to Preventive Conservation at the Canadian Museum of Nature. Göteborg Studies in Conservation 13, ISSN 0284-6578; ISBN 91-7346-475-9 Göteborg Acta Universitatis Gothoburgensis, Göteborg; xvi + 189 p.p.

### **Keywords**

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