

For Immediate Release

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China's Terracotta Army to conquer Victoria in 2011

Victoria, BC – China's famed Terracotta Army will march into the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) in Victoria next year as part of a four-museum Canadian tour that begins this summer in Toronto.

The Warrior Emperor and China's Terracotta Army opens at the RBCM in late 2011. The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) – the institution organizing this first-ever Canadian visit – announced the national tour of *The Warrior Emperor and China's Terracotta Army* in Toronto this morning.

"The Royal BC Museum takes great pride in being chosen by the Government of China as one of the presenting museums for this important Canadian tour," says RBCM CEO Pauline Rafferty, who is in China this week to meet with Chinese museum officials and to visit the archaeological site where the life-sized clay figures were discovered in 1974.

"The story of China's First Emperor and his Terracotta Army is one of the most captivating in human history. This phenomenal exhibition will give our visitors a rare opportunity to learn about China's rich cultural legacy and this remarkable archaeological discovery."

Discovered in 1974 in China's northern Shaanxi province, the elaborate underground tomb complex of China's First Emperor is one of the most significant archaeological finds of the 20th century. So far, thousands of life-sized terracotta sculptures of Chinese figures and related items – created during the Qin Dynasty, 2,200 years ago – have been unearthed at the site.

The Canadian touring exhibition features more than 300 of these artifacts – including 18 life-sized characters (armoured generals, foot soldiers, a chariot driver, archers, bureaucrats and servants); bronze and clay animals; weapons; gold chariot fittings; jade pendants; and ritual vessels. It is the largest Terracotta Army collection ever to be seen in North America; many of the items have never before travelled outside China.

The Warrior Emperor and China's Terracotta Army will launch at the ROM June 2010. Following this premiere, the exhibition is scheduled to travel to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in early 2011, Calgary's Glenbow Museum in summer/fall 2011 and the Royal BC Museum in late 2011 to 2012.

"The benefits of presenting this exhibition are enormous for British Columbia," says Kevin Krueger, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts. "In addition to the cultural value of bringing such a significant exhibition to B.C., we expect it will provide a major economic boost for the tourism sector, particularly in the off-season."

This exhibition was organized by the Royal Ontario Museum in partnership with the Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Relics Bureau and the Shaanxi Cultural Heritage Promotion Centre, People's Republic of China, with the collaboration of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Glenbow Museum and the Royal BC Museum.

As the provincial museum and archives, the Royal BC Museum preserves and shares the stories of British Columbia – on-site, off-site and online – through its research, collections, exhibitions and educational programs. Its two-hectare cultural precinct also includes a number of historically significant buildings and First Nations sites.

For more information about the Royal BC Museum, call 1-888-447-7977 or visit www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca.