

NATIONAL RAILWAY



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Honourable Stan Hagen
Minister of Tourism, Sports & the Arts

The Honourable Mike deJong
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

A BC150 Museum and First Nations Cultural Train proposal was delivered to BC150 in Victoria on Wednesday January 9th by the BC NRHS and CRHA preservation Societies. The BC150 slogan 'Tell us your story' prompted the recommendation of a traveling collection of exhibits where each community would 'own' the display whereby they showcase their community.

A steam locomotive and display cars exist in BC Museums which could be used for this moving exhibit without a huge effort to ready these pieces. The museum train would travel to different communities than those outlined in the February 2 news announcement from BC150 and the CPR. Here follows the proposed 2nd BC150 museum train.

The auspicious opening of the new SQUAMISH LIL'WAT CULTURAL CENTRE in Whistler and their interest in having the train deliver dignitaries as a media event prompted our offering a museum train. The consist would include display coaches of BC heritage along with an exclusive First Nations Cultural Exhibition car.

A proposed itinerary of stations and travel routing would be initiated in Kelowna where Osoyoos and Okanagan Bands would give the train a spirited send off. The train would proceed with stop overs in Vernon, Armstrong, and Kamloops. The Prince George display would be timed to the Victoria Day weekend and the 200th anniversary of Simon Fraser's May 22 1808 departure down his namesake river. The train would follow the river to Quesnel and Williams Lake. At Lillooet the departure would be timed for the train to arrive at Whistler with First Nations chiefs and dignitaries for the opening ceremony of the new Cultural Centre.

In Vancouver, the display train would then be open to the public for the summer, with a side journey to Fort Langley on BC Day in August. On November 19 the train would carry the BC cabinet to Fort Langley to relive the 150th Governor Douglas proclamation of the colony of BC.

In the style of 'living history' at each traveling stop over, Legislative Members, Mayors and Chiefs may relive the BC proclamation or 'tell us their story' from the platform observation car, the media perfect stage for public speaking. The train journey would be a crescendo of events to celebrate the opening of the Whistler Cultural Centre and the Fort Langley sesquicentennial event.

Respectfully submitted,
Terrance Fergusson BC NRHS
Box 33763 Station D, Van V6J 4L6
cell 604 786 2154

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Copy: Legislative Members, First Nations, City Mayors

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