



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

British Columbia Museums Association Conference 2008: *Storytelling in BC-People, Places & Perspectives*

It is an honour to welcome delegates from across British Columbia to our beautiful capital city for the 2008 British Columbia Museums Association conference. I'm delighted that the theme of this year's conference will be *Storytelling in BC*. I believe that storytelling reflects our rich cultural heritage of the generations before us, and helps us to better understand how our past has influenced our present.

For thousands of years, Aboriginal people in Canada relied on the use of storytelling to pass down oral traditions and teach their children. The cultural identity of a community could be found in its oral teachings. Though times have changed, and the classroom moved from the rivers and mountains in our backyards to the desks and chairs in our schools, storytelling remains a highly respected and valued art form that not only entertains, but continues to teach our youth and bridge the gap between generations.

Just as oral traditions are a vital part of our cultural identity, so, too, are our museums and galleries. The collections tell their own stories of our collective past and provide an opportunity for people of all ages to see how the past is relevant to us in the present.

As the representative of Her Majesty The Queen and on behalf of all British Columbians, I would like to thank the British Columbia Museum Association for your tremendous contributions and efforts in helping preserve our province's identity and culture.

Best wishes for a successful and most memorable event!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Point".

The Honourable Steven L. Point, OBC
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia