

ALIENS AMONG US

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S RECENT PLANT AND ANIMAL ARRIVALS



An exhibition by the Royal BC Museum

royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

The Seven-spotted Ladybug was introduced to North America from Europe and it is linked to declines of native ladybugs.

They're already among us...

Aliens Among Us is a travelling Royal BC Museum exhibition on British Columbia's invasive species. The exhibition invites visitors to interact with some of the province's best-known and least-loved invasive species.

There are over 4,000 alien species in the province and that number grows each year. Some of these aliens are invasive—they spread quickly, threaten native wildlife and are hard to control.

What are Aliens?

All plants and animals in British Columbia came from somewhere else. Native species migrated here on their own, most of them after the continental glaciers melted. *Alien or exotic* species came here with the help of humans. Most aliens arrived since the time of the first European settlers, about 160 years ago.

Native plants and animals have settled into their habitats gradually. Each has found its place and contributes to the well-being of the ecosystem. An alien species that arrives suddenly in an ecosystem does its best to survive and then to thrive. Most don't do well. The problem comes from the few that flourish—the alien species that enjoy BC's environment so much that they become invasive and push out or eliminate native species, sometimes destroying whole ecosystems.



Adult moths don't chew leaves, but the caterpillars of invading moths can have devastating impacts on our native plants and agriculture.

The European House Sparrow are an urban and agricultural pest which arrived here between 1886-1890.



Content and Visitor Experience

The intent of this travelling exhibition is to help Canadians take new perspectives on introduced or exotic species, how they get here and the impact they have on ecosystems. Ultimately, we hope that visitors will leave armed with new knowledge about the impact of exotic life-forms and what they can do to protect our natural heritage.

Content

The exhibition is comprised of 33 mini dioramas presented in seven (7) display cases. It is complemented with freestanding interpretive panels that talk about how invasive species get here and what people can do to help protect biodiversity. As a touring presentation, the exhibition is flexible in the way it can be presented to allow it to fit into a variety of space configurations and sizes. Ideal venues would be between 1,000–1,500 sq ft [93–140 sq m] in size.

- Seven (7) display cases with optional light canopies
- Seven (7) freestanding interpretive panels

Exhibition Venue Requirements

- Minimum 1,000 sq ft [93 sq m]; optimal 1,500 sq ft [140 sq m]
- Basic security and environmental needs, assessed venue by venue
- Height requirement: 8 feet
- Host venue assistance: two (2) able bodies movers
- Install time 2–4 hours, site dependent
- Storage requirements: 20 sq. ft.
- 1 multi-media kiosk
- Power requirements: One (1) 15 Amp circuit
- Two (2) electrical outlets for lights

Accompanying Material

- Electronic toolkit with sample media release, including background information on the exhibition and the website, title graphic and images to use in advertising
- Educational resources

Support from Royal BC Museum

- Guidance from RBCM staff on exhibition layout
- RBCM staff will install and de-install the exhibition
- Curatorial staff could be available for presentations in your community (additional to presentation contract)

While native to southern BC, Northern Raccoons represents an introduced invasive species on Haida Gwaii.



Availability

Available from September 12, 2016, for periods of eight (8) to 12 weeks per venue.

Contact

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About the Royal BC Museum

The Royal BC Museum explores the province's human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Looking to the future, by 2017 the Royal BC Museum will be a refreshed, modern museum, extending its reach far beyond its two-hectare campus in Victoria as a world-class cultural venue and repository of digital treasures.

Purple Loosestrife infestations can block water flow in canals and ditches.

