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New Royal BC Museum book tells the story of the Indigenous ancestor discovered on a glacier in Northwest BC

DAKWÄKÄDA (Haines Junction), YT and VICTORIA, BC – Eighteen years since three hunters stumbled upon his body on a remote BC glacier, the story of a young Indigenous man, frozen for hundreds of years, is told in the Royal BC Museum’s comprehensive new book, *Kwädqy Dän Ts’inchj: Teachings from Long Ago Person Found*.

When his remains were discovered on an unnamed mountain in Tatshenshini-Elsek Park in the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) Traditional Territory, his story had faded, even from the long memory of the region's people. First Nation elders decided to call the discovery *Kwädqy Dän Ts’inchj*—Long Ago Person Found.

“This discovery reaffirms our historical tie to the land,” says CAFN Dän nätthe äda (Chief) Steve Smith. “It led to important discussions about respectful, culturally appropriate treatment of the find and artefacts. And it also helped us to build a unique partnership with the Royal BC Museum and other outside experts, balancing traditional values with more scientific approaches.”

“More than 17 years have passed since the *Kwädqy Dän Ts’inchj* man was found, and in that time a remarkable amount has been learned about his life, death and the landscape that is so inextricably linked with the story of this young man,” says Prof. Jack Lohman, CEO of the Royal BC Museum. “The backdrop to this time period has been of mounting global recognition of Indigenous rights and the urgent need for environmental protection. It is my hope that this timely work will serve as an example for institutions seeking to undertake meaningful and collaborative research in partnership with First Nations in Canada.”

The discovery of the *Kwädqy Dän Ts’inchj* man was unprecedented in North America. His remains, preserved in glacial ice, offered answers, as did the traditional knowledge and experience of the First Nations people in whose territories he lived and died.

With contributions from First Nation citizens and other experts around the world, the book is a model for how diverse ways of knowing, in both scholarly and oral traditions, can complement each other to provide a new understanding of our complex histories. It is edited by Dr. Richard J. Hebda (Curator Emeritus at the Royal BC Museum), Sheila Greer (CAFN Heritage Manager) and Alexander P. Mackie (formerly with BC Archaeology Branch).



This is a story of significant historical heft, reflected in the size of this large-format paperback: at 704 pages, illustrated with colour and black and white photographs, it retails for \$49.95.

Kwädqy Dän Ts'inchj: Teachings from Long Ago Person Found is available at local bookshops, the Royal Museum Shop and online through the Royal BC Museum at <https://publications.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/>.

Hebda and Mackie will be reading excerpts from the book and answering questions from the public at the book launch, in Newcombe Conference Hall in the Royal BC Museum, on Thursday, November 9 at 5:30 pm. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing by the editors. Admission by donation.

The book will also be introduced in the Yukon during the Haines Junction Mountain Festival, which takes place December 8-10, 2017 in Dakwäkäda (Haines Junction), Yukon Territory (<http://www.yukonmountainfest.ca/>).

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. We are a hub of community connections in BC—onsite, offsite and online—taking pride in our collective histories.

About the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

The *Shadhäla, Äshèyi yè kwädän* (Champagne and Aishihik First Nations) is a self-governing First Nation located in the Yukon Territory and northwest British Columbia. Our homeland is a land of *kwata* (forests), *dhal* (mountains), *taga* (rivers), *man* (lakes) and *tan shj* (glaciers), with spectacular scenery and diverse resources and cultural riches. The land has offered *mbat* (food), *ur* (clothing) and *ky* (shelter) to CAFN ancestors for many generations. CAFN has more than 1,200 *Dän* (people) and is one of the largest of the 14 Yukon First Nations.

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