

Chief Dan George: Actor and Activist

Travelling Exhibition



How long have I known you, Oh Canada?
A hundred years? Yes, a hundred years.
And many, many seelanum more.
And today, when you celebrate your hundred years
Oh, Canada, I am sad for all the Indian people throughout the land.

-Chief Dan George, Lament for Confederation, 1967

Photo courtesy of the UBC Museum of Anthropology Archives, Vancouver, Canada - Anthony Carter fonds, a03855c, photograph by Anthony Carter

“Chief Dan George: Actor and Activist” is an exhibit exploring the life and legacy of Tsleil-Waututh Chief Dan George (1899-1981). The exhibit focusses on Chief George’s influence as an advocate for the rights of First Nations peoples and his career as an actor. It also considers other significant figures, events and milestones in the First Nations rights movement in BC and Canada, and touches on the wider history and portrayal of indigenous people in film and television.

The exhibit draws on the NVMA’s archival and artifact collection, including paintings, photographs and memorabilia, and was developed in close collaboration with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and the George Family. A large, wall-mounted timeline details important events in the relationship between BC’s indigenous people and the governments of BC and Canada.

“This exhibit has given us the opportunity to connect with our First Nations neighbours and to integrate these communities into our programs... The Chief Dan George exhibit is part of a greater Canada-wide pattern of reconciliation and recognition of our First Nations as the original peoples who acted as stewards of this land.”

-Richard Novek, *President of Board of Directors of the Sidney Museum (Vancouver Island), June, 2019*

“Heartwarming to see our history in places + spaces like this. I feel pride to see family represented...”

-North Vancouver Museum visitor, *September, 2017*

“This program provided my students with an experience I could have never achieved in the classroom. Some of the students in my class are related to Chief Dan George and they were beaming with pride as they walked around the displays and interacted with the docents. The other students were also deeply impacted as they learned in an active and highly visual manner about his life and times.”

-North Vancouver elementary school teacher, *Chief Dan George & Coast Salish Ways program, May, 2018*



U'Mista Cultural Centre, Alert Bay, BC

“Thank you for this beautiful and important exhibit of Chief Dan George. I was moved by what I saw – the power and resilience of Indigenous ancestors.”

-Museum visitor, June, 2017

“Great design, good label writing. I will think differently about our Canada Day celebrations tomorrow.”

-Museum visitor, June, 2017

“Very well done. Good to have this on in this 150th year of Canada. We need to reflect + participate in reconciliation. Thank you.”

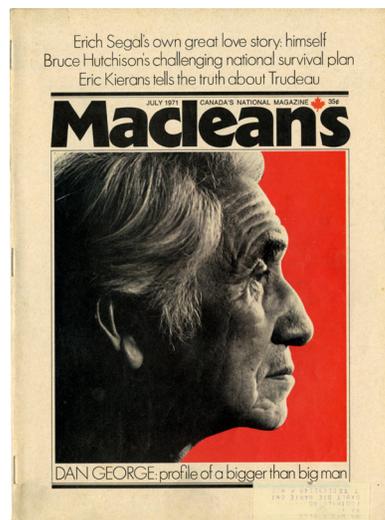
-Museum visitor, December, 2017



Timeline of First Nations Rights, Alert Bay

The NVMA and collaborators on the Chief Dan George Exhibit were awarded a **2017 Heritage Advocacy Award** from the District of North Vancouver in recognition of Indigenous Program Collaborations.

MacLean's Magazine, July 1971



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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COMPONENTS*

- A. Chief Dan George : Actor and Activist exhibit
- B. Timeline of First Nations Rights in Canada
- C. Large format illustrated book of Coast Salish Peoples in North Vancouver, available in English and French
- D. Compilation video with photos, audio and film clips from Chief George's career.

*Borrowers may enhance the exhibit with relevant items from their own collections and/or locally relevant text

ANCILLARY MATERIALS

- school programming materials (these can be tailored to regional needs)
- digital templates of promotional materials
- French translation of exhibit text

SPACE REQUIREMENTS

- full exhibit requires 1000 ft²
- if space is limited, borrowers may choose to exhibit only Component A (ca. 600 ft²); a small, secure display case is required
- Component B requires 100 linear ft of wall space in an overall space of 300 ft²
- Component C is 16"x13"; requires a stand or table
- Component D requires a projector or monitor

AVAILABILITY

Oct. 2020 to March 2021: Alberni Valley Museum

May 2021 to Sept. 2021: WBT, North Vancouver

Oct. 2021: AVAILABLE

COST

\$2000 + shipping and insurance costs for a loan period of up to 6 months.

FUNDING AND MAP GRANTS

Exhibiting venues are encouraged to apply for funding through the Museums Assistance Program's (MAP) Exhibition Circulation Fund (ECF) to assist with costs of hosting this exhibition. Eligible costs could include loan fees, shipping, insurance, installation and de-installation, marketing, and community engagement activities. There is no deadline, applications are accepted year-round in the federal fiscal year that the exhibit opens, but applicants are encouraged to submit their applications at least four months before the exhibit opens. For **more info** contact:

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www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/museums-assistance/exhibition-circulation.html