

CP Spirit of 150 Rail Tour calls on 33 communities

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Victoria, BC

From June 12 to July 6, the CP Spirit of 150 Rail Tour will visit 33 communities in the Kootenays, the Rockies, the Shuswap, Kamloops, the Fraser Canyon and Vancouver as part of the year-long BC150 celebration, announced Tourism, Sport and the Arts Minister Stan Hagen and Canadian Pacific president and CEO Fred Green.

"For over 100 years, rail travel has played an important role in B.C.'s heritage and economy," said Hagen. "The CP Spirit of 150 Rail Tour will highlight our rich rail history while bringing BC150 celebrations to life through live performances and a special exhibition created especially for this tour by the Royal BC Museum."

The CP Spirit of 150 Rail Tour includes the vintage CP 2816 Empress steam locomotive and support cars, two vintage passenger coaches, a vintage business car, a heritage baggage car converted into a traveling museum, and a vintage stage car. Visitors can view historic displays, watch a stage show and interact with costumed performers depicting some of B.C.'s most entertaining and notorious historical figures.

"The CP Spirit of 150 Rail Tour gives us the opportunity to connect our past, present and future in the communities we serve every day," said Green. "Canadian Pacific is a proud BC150 sponsor and proud to be a partner in the Pacific Century."

As part of the project, the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) has transformed a 1958 Union Pacific baggage car into a rolling museum – a traveling version of "Free Spirit: Stories of You, Me and B.C.," a major exhibition about British Columbia on display at the museum in Victoria until Jan. 11, 2009.

BC150 is a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia in 1858. Every community is invited to participate in this year-long celebration of B.C.'s cultural diversity, community strength and achievement. For more information on BC150 events and programs, please visit <http://www.bc150.ca/>.

Canadian Pacific is committed to being the safest, most fluid railway in North America. Canadian Pacific is proud to sponsor the CP Spirit of 150 rail tour celebrating the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia. Learn more about Canadian Pacific at www.cpr.ca.

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Backgrounder:

CP Spirit of 150 Rail Tour Schedule

Date	Station (Community)
June 12	Sparwood / Fernie
June 13	Yahk / Creston
June 14	Castlegar / Nelson
June 16	Cranbrook / Invermere
June 17	Radium / Golden
June 18	Revelstoke
June 19	Craigellachie / Salmon Arm / Notch Hill
June 20	Chase
June 21	Kamloops
June 23	Savona / Ashcroft
June 24	Spences Bridge / Lytton / North Bend
June 25	Yale / Haig (Hope) / Agassiz
June 26	Mission / Abbotsford
June 27	Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows
June 29	Port Moody
June 30	Langley
July 1	Surrey
July 4	New Westminster
July 5 and 6	Vancouver

Times and event locations will be announced closer to the rail tour date.