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BRITISH COLUMBIA JOINS CANADA PAVILION AT EXPO 88

The Honourable Pat Carney, federal Minister for International Trade, and the Honourable Elwood Veitch, B.C. Provincial Secretary, today jointly announced that British Columbia will have a strong presence within the Canada Pavilion at EXPO 88, in Brisbane, Australia.

Miss Carney welcomed the province's decision to produce a B.C. Futures Theatre promoting West Coast leisure and tourism opportunities at the world exposition, which runs from April 30 to October 30. The EXPO 88 theme is "Leisure in the Age of Technology".

"Australia played a significant role in Vancouver at EXPO 86. Next year is our chance to reciprocate." said Carney. "The Canada Pavilion will be one of the most impressive in Brisbane. There will be theatres, a fitness arcade, exhibits and state-of-the-art special effects to show Australians how Canadians spend their leisure time."

Mr. Veitch announced he will chair a three-member Cabinet Committee to oversee B.C.'s participation, which will be financed by the B.C. Lottery Fund.

"The Honourable Bill Reid, Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Culture, is co-ordinating the development of an automated, multi-media theatre promoting tourism and leisure opportunities in British Columbia. The Honourable Grace McCarthy, Minister of Economic Development, will seek business opportunities which may arise from the fair and may organize a delegation of business and professional people during the exposition," said Veitch.

Miss Carney stated that the Canada Pavilion and the British Columbia theatre within it will provide an integrated message to Australians.

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"We are striving to demonstrate the latest Canadian technology in the leisure field. The software robotics and creative message in the B.C. theatre will be world-class," said Carney. "I look forward to working with the Honourable Elwood Veitch and the provincial ministers in the weeks and months ahead to make sure we have an EXPO 88 presence that will make all Canadians proud."

"The Honourable Bill Reid is developing, with Creative House in Vancouver, a dynamic, leading-edge audio-visual theatre to promote tourism and leisure activities in B.C. We expect it to be one of the strongest messages at Brisbane," said Veitch, explaining that funding will also be provided to assist the tall ship Pacific Swift to sail to Brisbane from the EXPO 86 site.

"Construction of Pacific Swift began on Vancouver's expo site last summer. She will sail in time for British Columbia Day at EXPO 88 and will fulfil our desire to have an "EXPO to EXPO" project."

Veitch indicated that he expects the B.C. Futures Theatre and the Pacific Swift to be the major focus of B.C. participation at EXPO 88.

The Honourable Pat Carney announced last week that B.C.'s "Man in Motion", Rick Hansen, will be the Commissioner General of the Canada Pavilion at EXPO 88.

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