



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Museum to host dinosaur symposium

November 14, 2017

WEMBLEY, ALBERTA – Local and visiting palaeontological scholars will travel to speak on new discoveries in fossil exploration and research at the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum’s symposium An Afternoon of Palaeontology on Saturday, November 18.

Among the presenters will be keynote Dr. Philip Currie and his wife Dr. Eva Koppelhus.

“I look forward to returning to the museum to take part in this symposium,” said Currie. “Sharing discoveries, both in the field and lab, in palaeontology is one of the goals of the museum and this symposium supports that esteemed goal.”

With an advanced fossil preparation lab and climate-controlled collection space built into the museum facilities, the support of dedicated volunteers, and a dynamic combination of in-house staff and external collaborators, the museum is poised to become a palaeontological research powerhouse, leading the way for continued brand new discoveries in the region. In addition to the well-known Pipestone Creek excavation site, one of the densest dinosaur bonebeds in the world, the Peace Region continues to produce fossils from new sites every summer, providing research potential in the area for years to come.

“Highlighting research is a key direction for our institution as it brings important knowledge and ideas to the forefront, and shows us where we have been as a planet long before our species arrived,” said the museum’s executive director Susan Hunter on the importance of the symposium. “We welcome these scholars and will continue to host such events to advance academic and research excellence in Northern Alberta where these fossil finds are prolific.”

Speakers at the event hail from a variety of institutions, including the University of Alberta, Grande Prairie Regional College, and the Peace Region Palaeontology Research Centre. In total, nine scholars will present at the symposium.

“It’s great to get this many palaeontologists with research interests in the area all under one roof,” said Derek Larson, co-organizer of the event and the museum’s on-site palaeontologist, who will also be delivering a research presentation. “Science is a collaborative process, so communicating our work with each other and with members of the public is key to pushing that science forward.”

Along with members of the general public, museum sponsors will also be in attendance.



PHILIP J. CURRIE DINOSAUR MUSEUM

The program is scheduled from 1:00 to 5:00pm, with breaks for conversation throughout the day. Each presentation will be ten minutes in length, followed by ten minutes for discussion. Refreshments will be served at 5:00pm for an opportunity for participants and speakers to mix and mingle.

Attendance is free with donations appreciated, but seating is limited to 75 participants, the seating capacity of the museum's Aykroyd Family Theatre, where the event will be held. Interested participants are encouraged to reserve their seats by contacting visitorservices@dinomuseum.ca or phoning 587-771-0662.

More details about the event and speakers can be found at dinomuseum.ca/symposium.
(attached: poster)

About the museum

The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum – a 41,000 square foot world-class facility named for Canada's preeminent palaeontologist and highlighting the rich fossil resources of Northern Alberta – opened its doors to the public on September 26, 2015. It is Canada's second devoted dinosaur museum, and is located 19 kilometres west of the City of Grande Prairie in the Town of Wembley.

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