Royal BC Museum
675 Belleville Street
Victoria, BC V8W 9W2

What does modern history mean?
Modern history in museums includes human-made items from the 1800s all the way up to the modern day.

Why does the Royal BC Museum collect modern history items?
Every object tells a story. From hats and chairs to hammers and wooden spoons, these items help us learn about BC's past. They reveal the lives of families, governments, factory workers, immigrants and Indigenous communities. By preserving these objects, we help future generations understand how BC has grown and changed over time.

How big is the modern history collection?
The modern history collection is made up of over 165,000 items.

What types of things are in the modern history collection?
Our historians have collected a huge variety of objects that were either made or used in BC. These include anything from textiles to tools and furniture.

Who works in modern history collections?
All museum collections have a variety of people who work in them. Typically, there is at least one curator and one collection manager. A curator's job is to decide what is important to keep in the collection and what specimens to accept into the collection. Every museum collection has a goal: at the Royal BC Museum, our goal is to tell the story of people in British Columbia throughout space and time. A collection manager's job is to take care of the collection by keeping each specimen well preserved and facilitating how specimens come in and out of the collection. Many other people visit the collection such as scientists, researchers, volunteers and community members.