CITIZENSHIP WEEK IS OCTOBER 21 – 27

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Celebrating new citizens & discussing Canadian citizenship

Local volunteers to welcome 45 new Canadians from 21 countries at a community citizenship ceremony at the Royal BC Museum

In celebration of Canada's Citizenship Week, on Monday, October 21, the Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC) and Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) will welcome and celebrate 45 new Canadians from 21 countries at a special community citizenship ceremony at the Royal BC Museum.

Prior to the ceremony, the ICC will hold another in its series of community-led roundtable discussions organized by its local volunteer committee. The roundtable is a unique experience where members of the community (from neighbours to business professionals and city leaders) are invited to guide a conversation with new citizens that encourages the sharing of stories and a collective reflection on Canadian citizenship. One new citizen, Ilyana, had this to say about the experience: *"When I arrived this morning I was excited for me and my family. After the roundtable discussions, I became excited for everyone in the room."*

Presiding Official: Judge Gerry Pash

Guest Speaker: Sandra Richardson, CEO, The Victoria Foundation

When: Monday, October 21

- 1:00 p.m.: Roundtable discussion*
  **Media welcome, but not open to the public due to space constraints*
- 2:45 p.m.: Citizenship ceremony**
  *****All are welcome to attend and reaffirm their own citizenship***

Where: Royal BC Museum (675 Belleville St, Victoria, BC V8W 9W2)

Photos and video are permitted. Please note: content overheard during the roundtable discussions is off the record, but participants can be approached for interviews during the reception following the ceremony.

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP IS SOMETHING WE CAN ALL GET BEHIND

The Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC) is a national, non-profit charity that encourages active citizenship through innovative programs, collaborations and unique volunteer opportunities. Founded and co-chaired by the Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson and John Ralston Saul, the ICC works to: ensure new citizens are welcomed and included as equals; create meaningful connections among all Canadians; foster a culture of engaged citizens; reframe the national conversation on inclusion, identity and citizenship; and celebrate what it means to be Canadian. For more information, visit icc-icc.ca or email info@icc-icc.ca. Join our conversation by following us on Twitter @ICCICC.

For information on Canadian citizenship ceremonies held across the country, please visit Citizenship and Immigration Canada's website, cic.gc.ca or follow us on Twitter @CitImmCanada.

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