

Donating to the History Collection of The Rooms Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is included in the History Collection of The Rooms, Provincial Museum Division?

The History Collection of The Rooms contains objects relating specifically to the history and stories of Newfoundland and Labrador. Objects and specimens associated with the Province's Indigenous History, Archaeology, Natural History, Art or Archival-related material will be directed to another division within The Rooms.

2. Can I just drop off my donation offer to The Rooms for you to look at later?

No. Please do not bring objects to The Rooms until they have been accepted through our donation process. We are very interested to hear more about your objects but unfortunately, for reasons of security and public accountability, Security Officers, Front of House staff, and Museum staff are not permitted to accept objects offered as potential donations "over the counter".

3. What does The Rooms need to know about my object?

In order to make a decision about your donation offer, it would be useful for us to know the answers to the following:

- Do you know the history of the object?
- Can you provide a digital image of it, including close up shots of any identifying marks?
- Can you describe its physical condition, including whether it is in good/fair/poor condition?
- Are there any personal stories associated with the object?
- How did you obtain the object?
- Do you know who made the object (maker or manufacturer)?
- Can you confirm that you, or the legal owner, would be happy to transfer ownership of the object permanently to The Rooms? Have you discussed this with any other family members who may be associated with the object?

4. How does The Rooms, Provincial Museum Division decide what to collect?

As we cannot possibly accept everything that we are offered, we make decisions based on the information provided to the questions above and on the following:

- Whether or not we already have sufficient representation of a certain type of object and if the object fills a gap in our collection.
- Space in collection storage and resources available to adequately care for the object.
- Whether the current ownership is known or might be disputed.

5. If accepted, how long will it take to process my offer of donation?

Due to the high volume of offers, the process can take several months after we receive a donation offer. All offers that meet our criteria are considered by a Collections Committee that meets regularly throughout the year. Once accepted, the offer must go through a number of stages before the process is complete.

6. Can I get a tax receipt for my donation?

Yes, however a tax receipt may take several additional months to be issued as we use outside appraisers to evaluate the offer.

7. Will my object be displayed?

An acceptance of your donation does not guarantee public exhibition, and The Rooms does not accept donations offered with this criteria attached. Only a small percentage of the Museum's collection is on display.

8. If my object is not on display, what happens to it?

Artifacts that are not on display are held in storage. The collections are available to researchers for consultation on-site, or for loan to other qualifying museums. With some advance notice, arrangements can be made for donors to come in and see the objects they donated.

9. What can I do if The Rooms is not able to accept my offer?

If The Rooms is not able to accept your offer, we will try to recommend other institutions that may have an interest in the material you wish to donate.

10. What if I change my mind once my donation has been accepted?

Once ownership has been signed over, the objects are the property of the Province and cannot be returned. If you have concerns, please discuss them with us prior to signing over ownership.