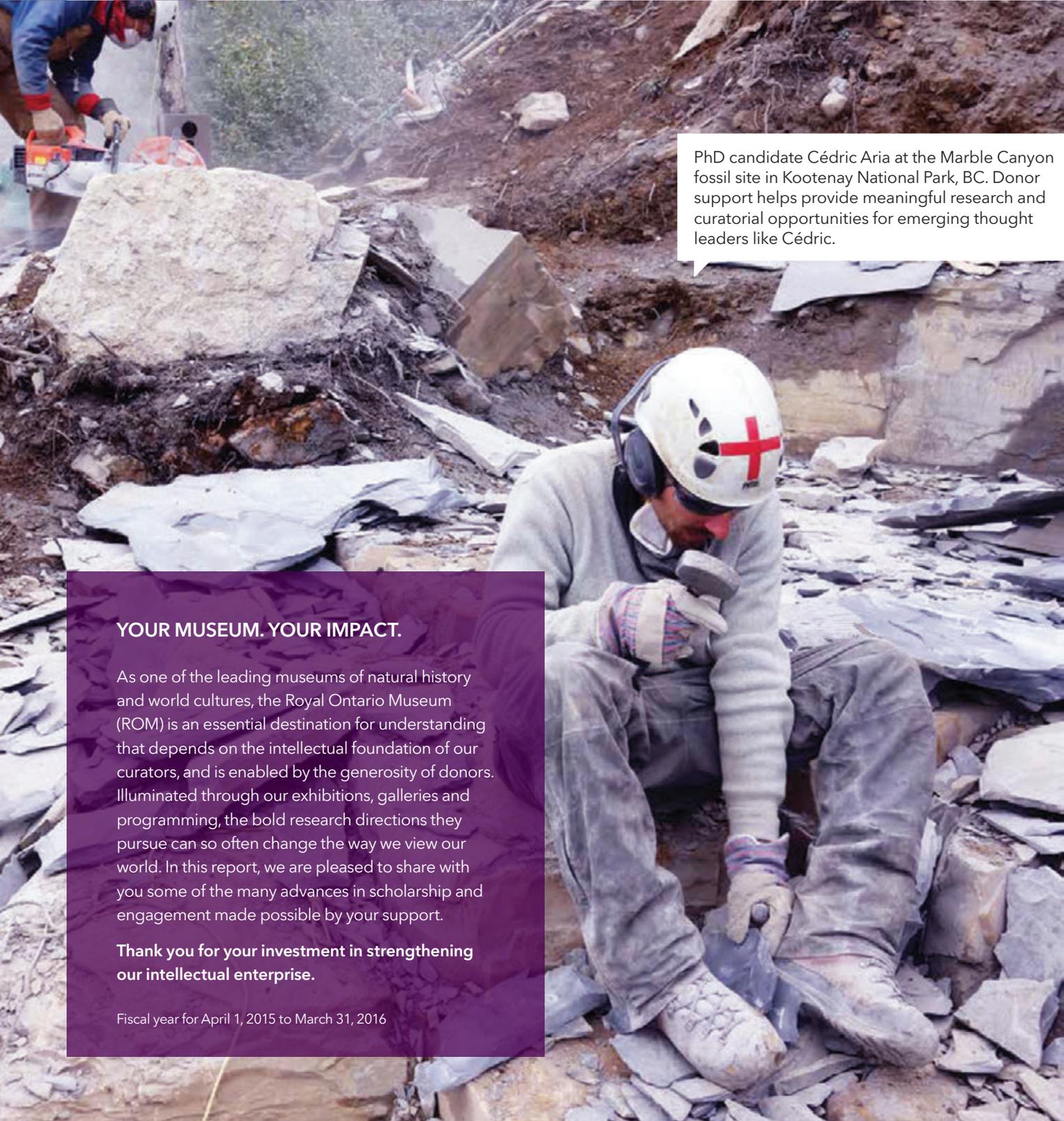




FY16 PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT REPORT  
ROM RESEARCH



PhD candidate Cédric Aria at the Marble Canyon fossil site in Kootenay National Park, BC. Donor support helps provide meaningful research and curatorial opportunities for emerging thought leaders like Cédric.

**YOUR MUSEUM. YOUR IMPACT.**

As one of the leading museums of natural history and world cultures, the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) is an essential destination for understanding that depends on the intellectual foundation of our curators, and is enabled by the generosity of donors. Illuminated through our exhibitions, galleries and programming, the bold research directions they pursue can so often change the way we view our world. In this report, we are pleased to share with you some of the many advances in scholarship and engagement made possible by your support.

**Thank you for your investment in strengthening our intellectual enterprise.**

Fiscal year for April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016



# DELVING INTO THE DEPTHS OF GENOMIC DISCOVERY

ROM scientists continue to make exciting progress in uncovering insights deeply embedded in the genetic material of two North Atlantic Blue Whales recovered by the Museum in 2014.

As the largest animal ever to inhabit the Earth, Blue Whales engender a high degree of public interest in their biology and conservation, placing them among the most charismatic ambassadors for advancing the study and protection of marine ecosystems. When nine of these endangered animals became trapped in ice and perished off the coast of Newfoundland in 2014, this tragic loss accounted for about five per cent of their North Atlantic population. For ROM experts who recovered two of the creatures that washed ashore, it also represented a rare opportunity to unlock insights in their genetic material—discoveries that can help resolve unanswered questions about their biology and evolution, as well as potentially inform new strategies for their conservation.

Enabled by donor support and leveraging state-of-the-art Next Generation sequencing technology, ROM scientists

are currently analyzing tissue samples recovered from the Blue Whales, generating a body of data as monumental in scale as the animals themselves! To further support these efforts, donor funds have also enabled a postdoctoral fellowship in bioinformatics—a field of study that employs mathematical models to translate complex genetic data into actionable information.

This collaborative research project, under the leadership of Dr. Mark Engstrom, ROM Deputy Director and Senior Curator of Mammalogy, is charting unexplored directions in understanding the species' genomic structure, while also establishing critical baseline data that will greatly benefit conservation studies on the remaining population. These and other insights, along with the complete display of a Blue Whale skeleton and its plasticized heart, will soon be shared with audiences in future ROM programming!



Evolution in  
Horned Dinosaur

Following his discovery of a new species of dinosaur, *Wendiceratops*, Dr. David Evans, James & Louise Temerty Endowed Chair, Vertebrate Palaeontology, advanced studies on understanding the evolution of skull ornamentation in an iconic group of dinosaurs characterized by their horned faces.



New Species of  
Tortoise Found

A discovery by Dr. Robert Murphy, ROM Curator of Herpetology, found what was previously thought to be a single species of Mexican desert tortoise to be three separate species! One of these species, named Goode's Thornscrub Tortoise, with the lowest population inventory, can now qualify for endangered status assessment.



# STIRRING DIALOGUE THROUGH JAPANESE WOODBLOCK PRINTS

One ROM postdoctoral fellow leveraged an underexplored area of the ROM's collections to curate an exhibition, sparking new discourse on contemporary issues of gender and sexuality.

As the inaugural Bishop White Postdoctoral Fellow of Japanese Art, Dr. Asato Ikeda, culled more than 3,000 Japanese woodblock prints from the ROM's collections—the largest of its kind in Canada—to plan and develop the exhibition, *A Third Gender: Beautiful Youths in Japanese Prints*. This show not only represented the first North American museum showing focused on *wakushu*—male adolescents who were the subject of sexual desire for both men and women—but also marked the first major exhibition at the ROM of Japanese *ukiyo-e* prints based on our collections in more than 40 years!

Most of the prints included in the show were sourced from the Sir Edmund Walker Collection, which was bequeathed to the ROM in 1926. Dr. Ikeda's expertise in Japanese art was pivotal to undertaking an assessment of these pieces, realizing their potential to advance research and inspire audiences. In addition to developing the show, she also co-authored an associated in-depth exhibition catalogue, which included new insights to address a scholarship gap in Edo-period (1615-1868) gender structure. Fellowship positions, such as Dr. Ikeda's, provide an invaluable training ground for tomorrow's luminary scholars; and without donor support, new knowledge embedded in our collections may otherwise remain untapped, and debate initiated by exhibitions like *A Third Gender* go unrealized.



## A THIRD GENDER

BEAUTIFUL YOUTHS IN JAPANESE EDO-PERIOD PRINTS AND PAINTINGS

Buy the catalogue online at [shop.rom.on.ca](http://shop.rom.on.ca)



Promoting Global Cultural Dialogue

A publication on The Forbidden City—home to China's imperial families of the Ming and Qing dynasties—was jointly published by the ROM and the Palace Museum in Beijing, China. Based on the eponymous ROM exhibition (2014), its depth of insight into Chinese cultural traditions was the unique product of a global collaboration in scholarship.



New Insights of the New World

At Quilcapampa, an archaeological site in Peru, excavations led by Dr. Justin Jennings, ROM Curator of New World Archaeology, uncovered numerous disarticulated mummified remains. The state of these bodies offered new insights, published in a 2015 paper, into social structures of the Ancient Andes in circa AD 1000.

## ROM RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### AT A GLANCE

**\$90k**

Peer-reviewed grants made to ROM experts to advance scholarship

**97**

Papers published by ROM curators in peer reviewed academic journals

**39**

Academic conference papers delivered by ROM curators in 11 countries.

**5**

Books and exhibition catalogues published by ROM curators and collaborating scholars

**300**

Visitors attended the annual ROM Research Colloquium and Vaughan Lecture

### GLOBAL SCHOLARSHIP



**27**

Countries, and five Canadian provinces, in which ROM curators conducted field research

### NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS



#### Martian Meteorites

Three new Martian meteorites were acquired by the ROM, strengthening one of the most important planetary science collections in the world!



#### Maué Headdress

Composed of several thousand brilliantly coloured feathers, this headdress made by the Maué Indians is a fine example of Amazonian material culture.



**ROYAL  
ONTARIO  
MUSEUM**

#### ROM Governors

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