



The CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM
Le MUSÉE CANADIEN du CANOT

NEWS RELEASE

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**LEARN ABOUT BIRCH BARK CANOE BUILDING
AT THE CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM**

PETERBOROUGH, Ont. — From September 18 to October 2, visitors to The Canadian Canoe Museum will be able to view a canoe building project. Chuck Commanda will be onsite working on a traditional Gitigan Ziibi-style birch bark canoe in the museum's "Preserving Skills Gallery."

The canoe build will be part of a project called "Jiimaan: A Canoe for this Land." It will serve as a way to spread the knowledge of birch bark canoe building. Students will visit the museum to view the project, and educational sessions will take place over Skype.

"I'm honoured to be involved with such a great group of people," says Commanda. "I want every Canadian to be able to visit The Canadian Canoe Museum and learn how the birch bark canoe helped shape Canada and the US. I will have my good friend, Stephen Hunter, assisting me on the project, and we are both excited to get started!"

Commanda learned traditional canoe building from his grandparents, the late William and Mary Commanda, as he worked with them on canoes now a part of the museum's collection. Today, he is one of few practicing First Nations birch bark canoe makers. He will demonstrate his traditions and techniques before the public, and anyone can view the project after paying museum admission.

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