



Outdoor Self-Guided Walking Tour



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE STYLE

Construction of the current Parliament Buildings started in 1893 and they were officially opened on February 10, 1898. The architect, Francis Rattenbury, was just 25 years old when he won the competition to design the new buildings.

The style of the Parliament Buildings has been described as 'free classical' and 'Romanesque.' Raw materials from throughout British Columbia were used for the construction of the buildings, including andesite from Haddington Island for the 150 meter (500-foot) long façade and granite from Nelson Island for the foundation and front stairs. The roof is capped by 33 copper domes of different sizes. On top of the central dome, stands a gold plated, two-metre tall statue of Captain George Vancouver. Each night, the buildings are illuminated by more than 3500 energy-efficient light bulbs.

In addition to the magnificent Parliament Buildings, the Legislative precinct is home to numerous landmarks of historical importance and many beautiful fountains, trees, and gardens. Please use this booklet to learn more about the property and enjoy your self-guided walking tour!

1 Cenotaph: The bronze War Memorial to the Unknown Soldier designed by English sculptors Vernon and Sidney March was unveiled by Lieutenant Governor W.C. Nichol on July 12th, 1925. There are four plaques remembering Canadians lost in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Afghanistan War and peacekeeping missions. The Cenotaph



is made of Nelson Island granite; the same stone as the base of the Parliament Buildings.



2 Queen Victoria Statue: Premier Richard McBride commissioned this 4 metre (13 ft) bronze statue of Queen Victoria in 1912. British artist Allen Bruce-Joy completed the statue in 1914, but shipping was delayed until after World War I. It was unveiled in 1921 by Canada's Governor General, the Duke of Devonshire.

3 Sequoia Tree: This tree was planted sometime during the 1860's and is now over 30 metres (100 ft) tall. In early December, the *Sequoia* becomes the province's official Christmas tree decorated with thousands of energy-efficient bulbs.



4 Douglas Obelisk:

In gratitude for his public service, this 8 metre (27 ft) obelisk was erected in 1881 to honour Sir James Douglas, Governor from 1851-1864, who is considered the "Father of British Columbia". The obelisk was created by Mortimer & Reid using native B.C. marble from Beaver Cove on the northeast coast of Vancouver Island.

5 Knowledge Totem Pole:

Erected to welcome visitors to the 1994 Commonwealth Games, this totem was carved by Coast Salish artist Cicero August and refers to the oral traditions of the Aboriginal people of the northwest coast. At the top is the loon - teacher and interpreter; fisherman - traditional way of life; bone player - game played by people who do not share the same language; and the frog which comes from an old mountain story. Together they represent lessons of the past and hope for the future.



6 Front Fountain: This fountain was designed in Victoria by Hooper & Watkins and manufactured in New York by Joseph W. Fiske in 1905. It originally had 4 basins and stood over 5.5 metres (18 ft) tall, but today it consists of only the single large basin.

7 Premier's Rose Garden:

This rose garden was designed by Henry Whittaker and constructed in 1935-36 as a relief



project during the Great Depression. It is built in the foundation of one of the old government buildings known as the "Birdcages." In 1986, this garden was dedicated to Premier Bill Bennett and renamed the Premier's Rose Garden.

8 Speaker's Chair: The Speaker's Chair was unveiled in June of 2013, to commemorate and celebrate the role of Speaker in a parliamentary democracy and to acknowledge the contribution of the individuals who have served as Speakers, Deputy Speakers and Assistant Deputy Speakers in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.



9 Back Fountain: Designed by Robert Savery in 1962, the Centennial Fountain celebrates the union of the four colonies and territories that joined to form British Columbia. The bronze animals are symbols of B.C.'s geography and history: gull, sea otter, eagle, raven, bear and wolf.

10 Search and Rescue Volunteer Memorial: The British Columbia Search and Rescue Volunteer Memorial was unveiled on March 2, 2017 to remember those volunteers who died in the line of duty and to honour volunteers who serve.



11 The Last Alarm - Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Statue:

Unveiled on February 13, 2013, the statue honours all fire fighters who have died in the line of duty in the Province of British Columbia. The term "Last Alarm" has become a popular reference to a fire fighter who has given their life while performing their duty.



12 Fallen Paramedics Memorial: Unveiled on May 6, 2015 the Fallen Paramedics Memorial is a monument to honour those paramedics who have died in the line of duty in service to British Columbia.



13 Law Enforcement Memorial: This 60,000 pound granite bastion monument was unveiled on September 26, 2004, by the Solicitor General. The four-sided memorial has separate panels representing different aspects of the Peace Officer community in B.C.

Eight "Fallen Hero panels" are on the exterior corners of the monument with names appearing in random order.

14 Copper Beech Tree: This tree was planted by Premier John Oliver on April 7, 1921, in memory of E.O.S Scholefield, the Provincial Government Librarian from 1889 - 1919.



Inner Harbour

Belleville St.

Menzies St.

Government St.

Superior St.

Douglas Obelisk

Queen Victoria Statue

Cenotaph

Sequoia Tree

Knowledge Totem Pole

Front Fountain

Premier's Rose Garden

Speaker's Chair

Law Enforcement Memorial

Copper Beech Tree

Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Statue

Fallen Paramedics Memorial

Search and Rescue Volunteer Memorial

Back Fountain

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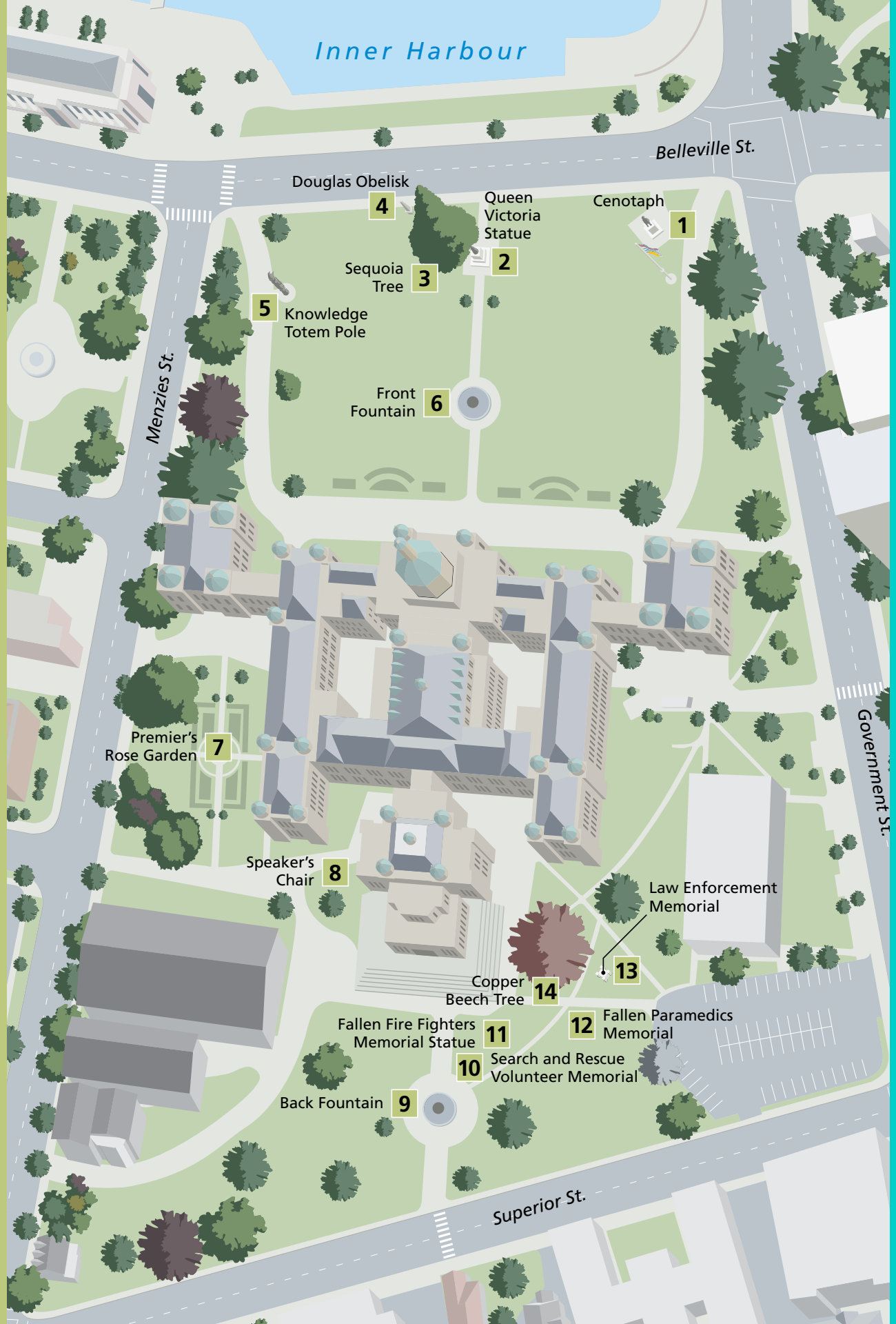
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WELCOME TO BRITISH COLUMBIA'S PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

The Parliament Buildings are where the elected representatives – called Members of the Legislative Assembly or MLAs – meet to shape the future of the province by debating and passing the laws that govern British Columbia.

The Parliament Buildings and surrounding areas are located in the traditional territories of the Lekwungen (pronounced Le-KWUNG-en) people. Now known as the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations, these Coast Salish people have a rich culture and history dating back thousands of years.

This 5.9 hectares (12 ½ acre) property has served as a site of government in British Columbia since 1864. The original structures on this site, known as the Birdcages, were built to house the elected assembly for the Colony of Vancouver Island. They continued to be used by the Legislative Assembly after British Columbia became a Province of Canada in 1871.



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VISITING THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

WE WELCOME VISITORS. Free tours of British Columbia's Parliament Buildings are available Monday through Friday throughout the year, and seven days a week in the summer months.

To see MLAs in action, visitors are welcome in the public galleries of the Legislative Chamber whenever the House is sitting. Please note that the galleries are often full during Question Period – the 30-minute period every Monday to Thursday when MLAs ask questions about government activities.

For further details, visit www.leg.bc.ca or contact:

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Parliament Buildings
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To visit the Parliament Buildings, go to www.leg.bc.ca/tours or contact:

Parliamentary Tour Office
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