



BCTI Alumni NEWS

issue 1 | volume 15 | April 2016

New Classroom Activities Available Online Now!

Three engaging new classroom activities were created by your provincial colleagues during the Fall 2015 session of the BC Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy. All three have also been translated into French.

View them online now by visiting the [Learning Resources page](#).

Title: Governance (framework for establishing governance and community within a class)

Audience: Social Studies 5

Title: Laws - They are a-Changin'

Audience: Social Studies 6-10 (2015 Draft Curriculum); Language Arts 6-12

Title: Our IHOP! (Our Interesting House of Parliament)

Audience: Social Studies 11, Civics 11, (Social Studies 10 effective 2016-17)



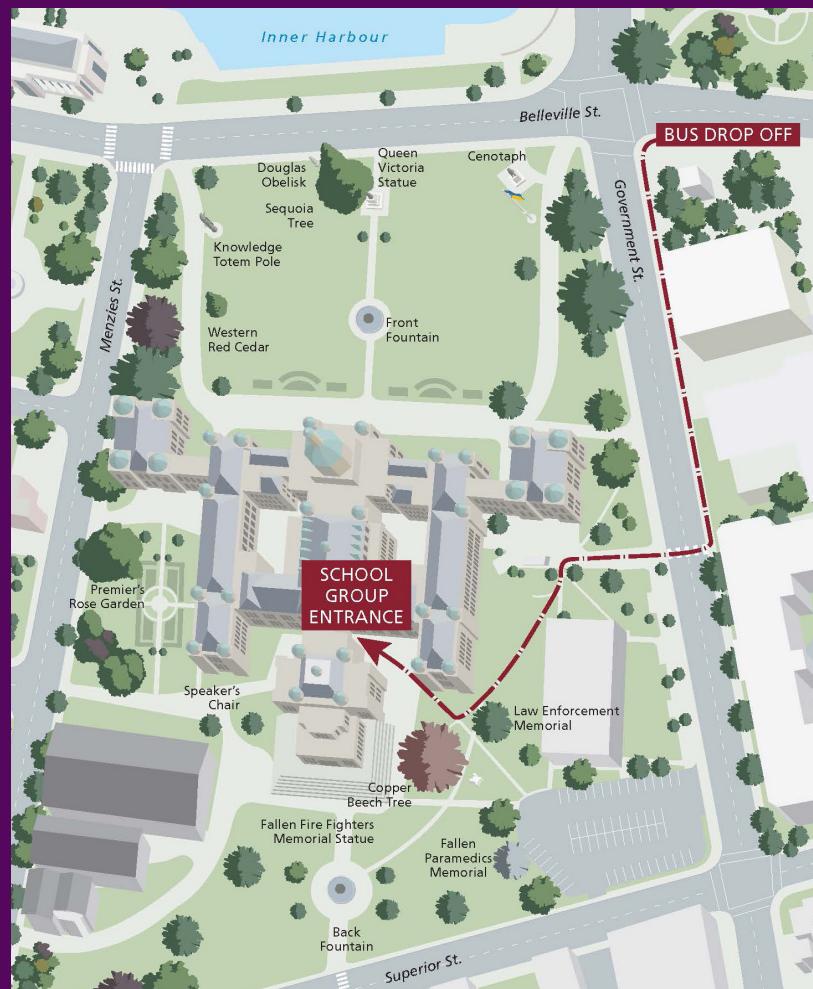
Parliamentary Trivia →

A DESIGNATED SCHOOL GROUP ENTRANCE AT THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

On February 1, 2016, a designated School Group Entrance was established at the Parliament Buildings. Located at the rear of the buildings near the Legislative Library, this entrance enables us to check-in and welcome school groups more efficiently. All school groups must now enter the Parliament Buildings via the School Group Entrance.

The entrance and adjacent reception area also enables us to highlight information about our provincial and parliamentary history, and information about your school's MLA.

Please view the map for directions to the new School Group Entrance. For additional information, please contact Sally Lee, the School Liaison, at 250-387-9243 or email tours@leg.bc.ca.



On Wednesday, February 17, 2016, two new female MLAs - Melanie Mark and Jodie Wickens - were sworn in following by-elections in the ridings of Vancouver-Mount Pleasant and Coquitlam-Burke Mountain. With their elections, women now make up 38% of MLAs in the Legislative Chamber - the highest percentage of female representation in a Canadian legislature. **How many female MLAs are there in BC?** Email your response to PEO@leg.bc.ca.



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Return to the BC Teachers' Institute as a Facilitator

Teachers who have attended a session of the BC Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy are eligible to apply to return as a facilitator.

Facilitators are the first point of contact and provide ongoing guidance and support to participants. Facilitators are expected to be approachable, knowledgeable, and to have excellent organizational and leadership skills.

In addition, facilitators will have the ability to promote discussion and critical inquiry into key issues on parliamentary democracy.

Successful applicants will have their accommodation, meals, travel, and TToC costs paid for by the BC Teachers' Institute. The registration fee is waived for facilitators. Applications to become a facilitator at an upcoming Institute are being accepted online now!

[**Facilitator Application Form**](#)



Tour the Parliament Buildings *with* Francis Rattenbury

Bring your class on a Friday this spring to take advantage of this special opportunity!

Book online now.

In 1892, an architectural contest was held to select a design for the new Parliament Buildings. Of 65 sets of drawings submitted by competitors from across North America, those of 25-year-old architect Francis Rattenbury were selected. Born and trained in England, Rattenbury had arrived in British Columbia only months before winning the architectural contest.

Construction began in 1893 and the Parliament Buildings were officially opened in 1898. Following their completion, Rattenbury went on to design a number of Victoria's landmarks including the famous Empress Hotel (1904-1908) and the C.P.R. Steamship Terminal (1923-1924). He also found success beyond the provincial capital, designing prominent public buildings in Nanaimo, Rossland, New Westminster, Nelson and Vancouver.

On Fridays this spring, the colourful character of Francis Rattenbury is being brought to life for school groups by one of the Parliamentary Players. Reference this opportunity when booking online and your students can explore the Parliament Buildings on a tour led by the man himself!

Upcoming Fall Institute October 18-22 2016

With planning for another session of the BC Teachers' Institute underway, your assistance in promoting this opportunity amongst your colleagues would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to receive a promotional poster to display in your staff room or informational bookmarks to give to teachers at your school, please email PEO@leg.bc.ca.

The online application deadline for teachers is Thursday, June 30, 2016.

We thank you for your support!





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IN OTHER NEWS...

The Parliamentary Education Office has welcomed Nicolas Rodger into the role of Tour Officer. Hailing from Ottawa, Nicolas previously worked for the Library of Parliament as an Interpretation Officer and brings a wealth of experience to the role. Nicolas oversees the Tour Office, including the school tour program.

A New Home for the Parliamentary Gift Shop

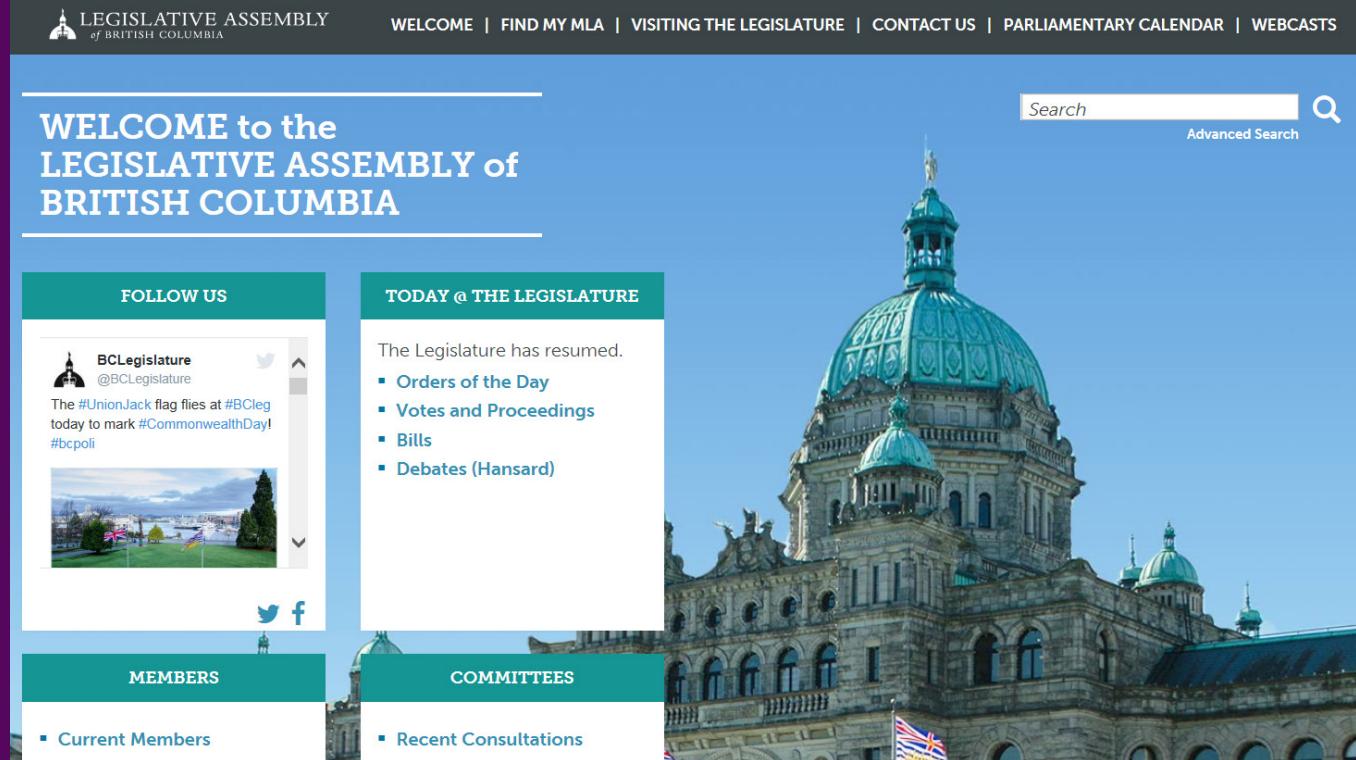
The Parliamentary Gift Shop has moved to its own purpose-built space adjacent to the front exit of the Parliament Buildings.

Showcasing a wide array of unique souvenir items, including jewelry, books, stationery, housewares and specialty gourmet items, the Gift Shop is a must-see on your next visit!

The Parliamentary Gift Shop is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Explore the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia's Newly Re-Designed Website

The Legislative Assembly's website has been re-designed and optimized to be more accessible and user-friendly for all. Please visit the site to discover up-to-date information about House proceedings and events; explore advanced search features; view live video from the Legislative Chamber; browse our educational and classroom resources and find out more about visiting the Parliament Buildings.





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Order Bag Lunches from the Parliamentary Dining Room

Don't forget that you are able to order bag lunches for your class from the Parliamentary Dining Room.

These convenient, ready-to-go lunches - available for pick up or delivery within the Legislative Precinct - include a healthy sandwich, Nutri-Grain bar, fresh fruit and a juice box.

View the [menu](#) for more information or call 250-387-3959.



The Parliamentary Players Return for Another Exciting Summer Season...

Beginning on May 21st, the ever-popular Parliamentary Players will be onsite to educate and entertain the thousands of students, BC and Canadian citizens and international tourists who visit the Parliament Buildings throughout the busy spring and summer months.

This year, you might spot the likes of Amor de Cosmos, Mary Ellen Smith, Queen Victoria, Thomas Uphill or Francis Rattenbury interjecting during a guided tour or roaming the Legislative Precinct, interacting with guests.

In the capable hands of post-secondary acting and theatre students, and under the supervision of Lead Interpreter Adriana Ayers, these characters truly help to bring the past alive!

