



BCTI Alumni NEWS

issue 1 | volume 17 | December 2017

Introducing the Education Steering Committee Future of BCTI

by Beth Dye | Education Steering Committee Member

Last spring, three long time educators passionate about the annual (formally semi-annual) BC Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy, gathered in Victoria with staff from the Parliamentary Education Office (PEO). The purpose of this meeting was to develop a framework for an Education Steering Committee which will support the PEO in all of its outreach and engagement activities. These three educators, Beth Dye, Neil Powell and Lisa Read, worked with the ever energized Karen Aitken and Jennifer Ives-Fournet to develop a Terms of Reference and an online application form for future steering committee members. PEO plans to have the online application form to apply to become an Education Steering Committee member available in May 2018. As always, Karen is continuing to ensure educators in British Columbia have access to outstanding educational resources and professional development opportunities to ensure that the students in this province 'get to understand' BC and its governmental systems.

- [Governance & Beyond school program continuing into 2018](#)
- Following the 2017 election, we [updated many of our learning resources](#)
- Our Spring tour schedule is filling up, [book your school tour today](#)
- Did you know we offer [self-guided tour books in 13 different languages!](#)
- For the month of December, enjoy a free holiday themed guided tour of the buildings and see the beautiful 35-foot Douglas Fir Christmas tree

PEO UPDATES



IN THIS ISSUE

- Updates from the Parliamentary Tour Program • What's Going on in the Chamber?
New Lesson Plans Created by BC Teachers • Fall 2018 Session of BC Teachers' Institute • Parliamentary Trivia & Faits du Parlement! •
Alumni News



Amazing Alumni

Congratulations to Beth Dye, Vice-Principal at Twin Rivers Education Centre. She won the prestigious Royal Canadian Geographical Society's [Geographic Literacy Award!](#)

The Award recognizes the recipient's achievements in the field of geography. For close to 30 years, this Kamloops educator has improved geographic education for students all across Canada. She has helped to design educational resources, taught geography teaching methods at the Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia, and has advised organizations such as the CBC, the B.C. Legislature, and the Library of Parliament on numerous geographic and civic literacy initiatives. She will be awarded her medal by honorary president of the RCGS, Alex Trebek (yes, that Alex Trebek!) at a medal ceremony on November 16th, 2017.



Changes to our Parliamentary Process

During the Fall 2017 Teachers' Institute, participants were interested to discuss some of the bills that had been introduced during the Fall Session that will impact the operations of the Legislative Assembly and the electoral process in British Columbia.

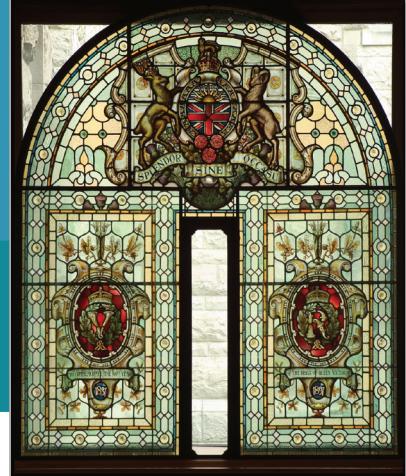
- ***The Constitution Amendment Act, 2017*** reduces the number of MLAs that are required for a party to be officially recognized in the Legislative Assembly from four to two. As a result, the BC Green Party now has official party status. This is the first time since the 35th Parliament (1991 – 1996) that there has been more than two official parties in the House.
- ***The Constitution Amendment Act, 2017*** also changes the fixed election date for provincial general elections from the second Tuesday in May to the third Saturday in October, every four years. The next scheduled date for an election is now Saturday, October 16, 2021.
- ***The Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Act*** establishes that voting for the referendum on electoral reform must be completed by November 30, 2018. The result of the vote will be binding on government and, if a new system is adopted, it must be in place in time for the provincial general election of October 2021. The referendum question(s) and other event-specific details will be established by government regulation at a later date.

Interested in learning more about legislation that is currently being discussed in the Legislative Assembly? Visit the [Progress of Bills](#) page on our website to read the draft bills and to see what stage the bills are at in the legislative process. Or visit www.bclaws.ca to see the most up to date version of all provincial legislation.



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New Lesson Plans Available Online Soon!

Seven new lesson plans were created by your provincial colleagues during our largest BCTI yet! Here is a teaser of their work, which will be available online in time for the New Year! See the other lesson plans now by visiting the [Learning Resources](#) page.

Grade 2:

Qu'est-ce que le gouvernement?

Grades 3-6:

Continuity & Change

Grade 5:

A Picture is Worth 1000 Words and You are the Voice

Roles of Officers

Grades 6-9:

Tow the Party Line or Vote with your Mind!

Grades 10-12 (Social Studies 10, Political Studies 11, Law 12):

Cleaning House

Grades 10-12 (Social Studies 10, Political Studies 11/12, Foundations of Math 11):

Show Me the Money!

October 16-20, 2018



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia Teachers' Institute
on Parliamentary Democracy

We have already started to plan for our 21st BC Teachers' Institute and 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

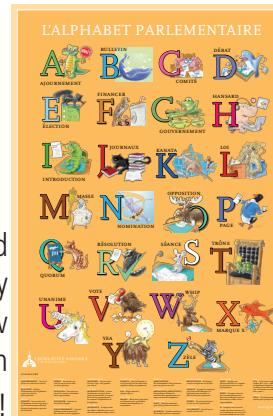
Online Application Deadline: June 29, 2018

New Learning Resources



Given the results of the most recent election we have updated our Women MLA poster

And our newest, and cutest, parliamentary alphabet poster is now available to download in French!



Parliamentary Trivia!

As a way to highlight our two newest educational posters, we have two trivia questions in this issue.

Q. How many women are currently serving as MLAs in the BC Legislature?

Q. Quelle est plus longue? La session ou la séance parlementaire?

Email your answer to either question to PEO@leg.bc.ca to win one of our new posters for your classroom!

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Based on the great success of a one-week spring break pilot program in March of 2016, we extended our program offerings into the summer. The programs are free, interactive, and aimed at families with children aged 6-12. The programs are open to all who have an hour and a half to spend at the Parliament Buildings exploring and learning.

The goal is to demystify the parliamentary process through an art and architecture focused tour, scavenger hunt, and craft activity. Depending on the day, some of our participants even had a special visit by one of our Parliamentary Players!

The success of the Spring Break and Summer Break Programs has spilled into the fall and the response has encouraged the Parliamentary Education Office to offer more daily programs in addition to spring and summer breaks. For our 2017/18 programming year we hope to extend to themed Pro-D days and a K-3 geared program, in addition to the other programs and tours we already offer throughout the year.



Do you have a story your fellow BCTI Alumni might be interested in:
PEO@leg.bc.ca



[@BCLegislature](https://twitter.com/BCLegislature)



[Legislative Assembly of BC](http://www.leg.bc.ca)

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