



BCTI Alumni NEWS

issue 1 | volume 20 | January 2019

Tour Program Updates

Little Legislators

Little Legislators is a free school tour program aimed at younger, more kinesthetic learners, and is best suited to students K-3. Offered in English or French, the program covers concepts of identity and family, community participation, and indigenous peoples. Participants will be introduced to the foundations of debate, law-making, and provincial governance. Through a mock-debate, students can learn how groups of people come together to make the decisions, and how to make their voices heard.

Parliamentary Players Program

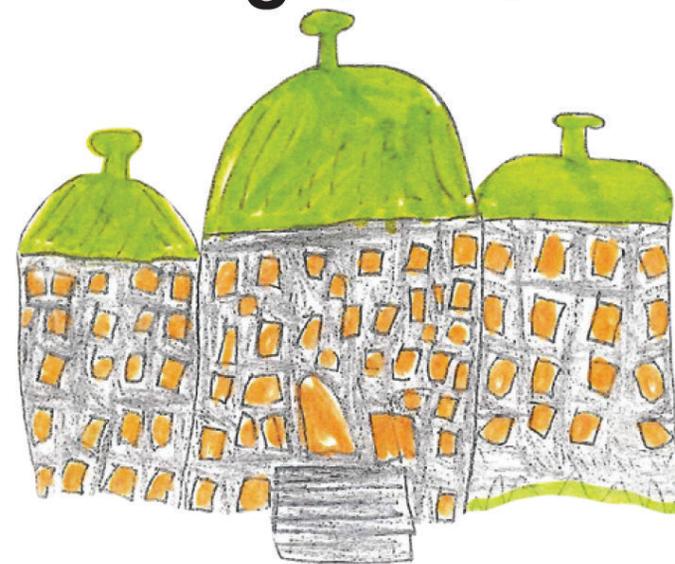
The Legislative Assembly of BC is offering guided tours with the longest serving MLA, Thomas Uphill. Mr. Uphill will regale visitors with stories of his 40 years serving in the Chamber, giving an in-depth look at the parliamentary process, and what it means to be a legislator. Public guided tours with Mr. Uphill will be offered every Friday until April 26th, 2019.

Spring Break Program

Join us for Spring Break at the Legislature! During this free, 1.5 hour program, you will be guided through the Parliament Buildings, exploring art and architecture, the history of British Columbia, and BC's parliamentary system of governance. Hands-on and engaging, this program is best suited to families with children aged 5 -12.

For more information, please email tours@leg.bc.ca or call (250) 387-1771.

I ♥ my Parliament



VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

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New Lesson Plans

The four lesson plans created by your colleagues during our most recent B.C. Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy are now available online!

Grade 3 - 6:

[Creating a Budget: Who Wants Pie?](#)

Grade 4 - 10:

[Don't Hate Debate: How Decisions Are Made](#)

Grade 5 - 10:

[Analyzing Political Campaigns](#)
[Analyser les campagnes politiques](#)

Grade 10:

[RIDing the Court](#)

Interested in seeing other lesson plans? Simply visit our [Learning Resources](#) page.



Democracy Bootcamp: Get ready for the 2019 federal election!

In February, CIVIX will bring together 125 teachers from throughout British Columbia for **Democracy Bootcamp** to prepare for the October 2019 federal election.

The event will feature experts and journalists sharing their insights on politics and the campaign ahead, as well as presentations and small group discussions to speak about useful tools and best practices for the **Student Vote** program.

The event will also focus on the threat of mis- and disinformation on democracy and rethinking news literacy skills in the digital age. Civix's team will review the tips and tricks for fact-checking and verifying sources that you can bring back to the classroom.

The event will take place in downtown Vancouver on the evening of **Thursday, February 21** (6:00 pm to 8:30 pm, with reception to follow) and during the day on **Friday, February 22** (8:00 am to 3:00 pm).

CIVIX will cover transportation costs (if outside Metro Vancouver), shared accommodation (with private accommodation available for \$115) and meals at the event. TOC costs will also be covered for those who require it.

This event is being financially supported by Elections BC and Elections Canada.

For more information, visit <https://democracy-bootcamp-bc-2019.eventbrite.ca> or call toll-free, 1-866-488-8775.

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Parliamentary Trivia



Having a Voice: Voting Rights and Democracy in British Columbia

Learn about governance using the Royal BC Museum's newest outreach kit

No matter where your classroom is, you can engage with the Royal BC Museum through their outreach kits. The newest kit to join the roster, [Having a Voice: Voting Rights and Democracy in British Columbia](#), was created in partnership with Elections BC. *Having a Voice* is designed to fit the Grade 5 Social Studies: Canadian Issues and Governance curriculum. Through activities suggested in the educator's guide and using their own inquiry process skills, participants will explore engagement and representation in BC politics, the electoral process and electoral boundaries.

The *Having a Voice* outreach kit provides your class with a unique opportunity to look closely at primary sources, the core material for understanding our past. The kit includes primary-source documents and reproduction items from the Royal British Columbia Museum, Elections BC and the BC Archives. Examining these documents will allow participants to gain new perspectives on how governance, democracy and voting rights have changed in this province.

Thanks to the partnership with Elections BC, the kit is available for two-week loan periods at no cost - including shipping!

Near or far, visit the Royal BC Museum [website](#) to book or learn more about using outreach kits for use in your classroom.

By Kate Adams, Learning Program Producer at RBCM



In British Columbia today, there are 87 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) representing 87 electoral districts. However, when BC first became a province there were only 25 MLAs.

Q. How many electoral districts did those 25 MLAs represent in 1871?

- A. 25
- B. 12
- C. 10

Email your answer to PEO@leg.bc.ca to win a prize pack from the gift shop.

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Electoral Milestones in 2019

This year marks the 70th anniversary of two important milestones in British Columbia's electoral history.

In 1949, the Legislative Assembly enfranchised Canadians of Japanese descent and the Indigenous people of British Columbia by removing voting prohibitions that had been in place since 1895 and 1874, respectively. This came shortly after similar restrictions were lifted for Canadians of Chinese and Indian ancestry (1947), as well as Hutterites and Mennonites (1948). Universal suffrage for all people in British Columbia would finally be achieved in 1952, when restrictions against Doukhobors were removed.

It was also in 1949 that Frank Calder, a hereditary chief of the Nisga'a nation, was elected to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. He was the first Indigenous person elected to serve in any Legislative Assembly in Canada and later became the first Indigenous Member of Cabinet. He was re-elected as the MLA for Atlin eight times (serving 1949 – 1956 and 1960 – 1979) before being defeated by only a single vote in the election of 1979. Today, Frank Calder is probably best known for his role in the Supreme Court of Canada decision that bears his name and that established, for the first time, that Aboriginal Title exists in modern Canadian law.

While the prohibition against Japanese-Canadians was also removed in 1949, it would be another 60 years before the first Canadian of Japanese ancestry was elected to the Legislative Assembly. Naomi Yamamoto, whose father was interned at Lemon Creek, British Columbia during the Second World War, ran successfully as the candidate for the riding of North Vancouver-Lonsdale in the provincial general election of 2009.

By David Nicholls, Parliamentary Education Officer at the Legislative Assembly of BC



Do you have a story your fellow
BCTI Alumni might be interested in?

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