



# BCTI Alumni NEWS

issue 1 | volume 18 | March 2018



## BCLIP Alumni Opportunity

### Education Steering Committee

by Karen Aitken | Director, Parliamentary Education Office

Further to the announcement about the creation of an Education Steering Committee in the last newsletter, I am pleased to inform you that we are now seeking applicants to sit as members of the committee.

We are looking for dedicated educators who have previously attended a B.C. Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy and wish to provide their expertise on a wide variety of educational resources and programs.

Our intention is for the Education Steering Committee to be comprised of educators from a variety of backgrounds including elementary, middle, secondary, post-secondary, Indigenous, ELL and French Immersion and in place for the start of the 2018/2019 school year.

Applications must be submitted by May 31, 2018. Successful applicants will be advised by mid-July and will commence their term in late-August, 2018.

Please visit the [BCTI section of our website](#) for additional information and to apply.

## Fall BCTI: October 16-20, 2018

We are looking for 30 teachers to participate in this fall's BC Teachers' Institute. Applications are now being accepted online. 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](mailto:PEO@leg.bc.ca).

Application deadline: June 29, 2018

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@BCLegislature

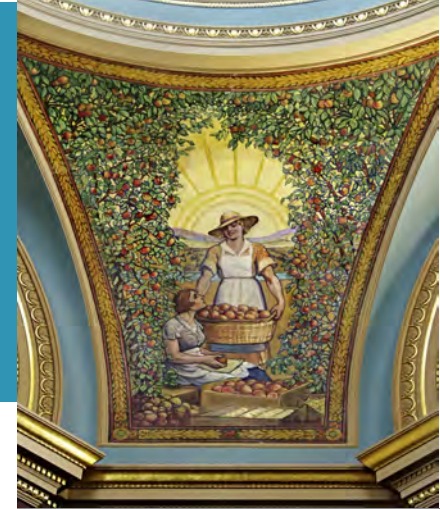


Legislative Assembly of BC



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## Summer Programming



The Parliamentary Players Program is returning for its 19th season this summer, running from May 19th to September 3rd, 2018.

The Parliamentary Players feature post-secondary student actors taking on a number of roles from BC's history, including BC architect Francis Rattenbury, gold-mining legend Nellie Cashman, second Premier and lover of the universe Amor de Cosmos, longest-serving MLA Thomas Uphill, and Canada's inaugural sovereign Queen Victoria. This year, the program will be reintroducing Scottish stonemason Hamish MacKinnon, one of the many masons hired to construct BC's Parliament Buildings.

The Players will be joining the guided tours to bring history to life with their own unique connections to BC's past. They will also be available outside for a conversation or two about the province and to perform historical vignettes.

As we prepare for one of the busiest summers ever, the Parliamentary Players will be at the forefront of it all, welcoming visitors, guests and school groups to BC's Parliament Buildings and embodying the province's rich and unique history.

The Parliament Buildings will open 7 days a week from May 19th to September 3rd, 2018.

## Summer Camps

Join us for a free, interactive program for families with children aged 6-10 this summer!

At our summer camps, you will:

- Explore the Parliament Buildings with a facilitated tour and scavenger hunt;
- Participate in a craft activity;
- Learn about history and parliament.

Little Legislators is a free school tour program aimed at younger, more kinesthetic learners. The content covers the Ministry of Education's Big Ideas for Kindergarten to Grade 3, introducing the concepts of identity and family, community, and indigenous peoples. Little Legislators will be introduced to the foundations of debate, law-making, and provincial governance, and can expect to draw connections between the Parliament Buildings and their own communities. Through a mock-debate, students can learn how groups of people come together to make decisions, and how to make their voices heard in their approach to governance.

## Little Legislators



- When: Teachers wishing to book can submit a request via our tour submission form.
- Length: Little Legislators is a 45-60 minute program.
- Contact: Visit [www.leg.bc.ca](http://www.leg.bc.ca) for more information, or email [PEO@leg.bc.ca](mailto:PEO@leg.bc.ca).

Programs are offered each day from 10:00am to 11:30am Monday to Friday, July 9th – 20th and August 6th to 17th.

Email [tours@leg.bc.ca](mailto:tours@leg.bc.ca) to register. Children must be accompanied by at least one adult.



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## Engagement in Action

I am a high school music and social studies teacher. Three schools, thousands of students, dozens of amazing colleagues, and twenty-three years have given me an amazing collection of relationships and stories. With two elementary school teacher grandmothers, I was fortunate to be fed a diet of political awareness and activism. Excellence in teaching, as modelled by my grandmothers, really boils down to doing a great job of engaging students and giving them the tools to follow their passion where it leads them.

Current events are the tool I use to link students to the curriculum. If it happened in the past, it will happen again, so making current connections actively links the student to young people in history. Some of the best lessons are connected and created by the students themselves. If they want to get passionate about an event, give them the research tools to check facts and make a balanced decision about how to act. I've had students decide to teach their ESL parents about how to vote, decide to write to the BC Minister of Transportation about dangerous driving, and decide to write to the Federal Minister of Immigration about genocide victims. By doing this, their activities link them to the real world of active democracy and active citizenship.

This happened again recently when our MP, Minister Carla Qualtrough, visited my HUM8 class to discuss what Canada is doing about the refugee situation in Myanmar. One student originally brought this to class as his personal discussion topic, and so engaged his 13 year-old classmates that they wanted to learn how to help. They researched the Syrian refugee crisis and the Canadian immigration issues that arose out of it, and wrote both to our Immigration Minister and our MP. They were so thrilled when she replied accepting our offer of a tea and cookies working meeting, and students took off running. They researched personal questions, they created a chai making committee, greeting and thank you committees, invited administrators, and so on. The meeting was sweetly intense, and the students were amazing. We ended our productive session with a little greeting video to Minister Qualtrough's seat-mate in the House of Commons, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Imagine the excitement when my students realized that the PM actually tweeted his greetings and encouragement to the students in return. Talk about creating engaged voters for life.

The moral of this story is to engage yourself and your students in democracy. Show them your personal willingness to continue to learn and continue to get excited by our amazing rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship. Bring in speakers. Sign up for teaching opportunities like the BC Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy. Basically, let the students create their passion, and give them the curricular tools and links to make them lifelong participants in our democracy. Oh Canada. How fortunate we are to live and teach here.

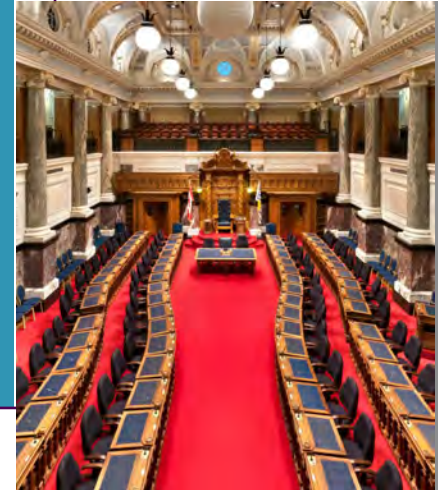
by Jeanie McKay, B.Mus., B.Ed., M.Ed. | North Delta Secondary School teacher, lifelong learner and BCTI Alumnus





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## The First Parliamentary Guide

On May 7, 1908 the Daily Colonist newspaper in Victoria reported that a tour guide had been appointed by the Legislative Assembly. The guide's duties would be to provide "an explanation of the general form of government in vogue in British Columbia and throughout the Dominion" and to answer "to the best of his ability the many questions which he may expect to have launched at him."

Mr. Harry Nash was hired for the position after having retired to Victoria at the end of a long and varied career as one of the original members of the Royal North West Mounted Police, a farmer, and a veteran of the Boer War.

Described as a "genial, courteous servant of the government", Mr. Nash retired after nearly 15 years as a tour guide. The Colonist reported that to mark his retirement "the esteem in which he was held by Members... was shown by the presentation they made to him of a purse of gold."

by David Nicholls | Education Officer

## Gift Shop News

The Parliamentary Gift Shop has assembled two new packages that include a number of items for children.

- The Steller Jay Pack includes a 12 pack sticker sheet, a bookmark, a pencil, a dome sticker, and a logo badge. (\$5.00 tax included).
- The Dogwood Pack includes 6 postcards, a bookmark, a pen, and a magnet. (\$10.00 tax included).

Please remember to visit the Gift Shop at the end of your tour to find great souvenirs of your visit to the Parliament Buildings!



## Precinct Updates

Our team in Legislative Facilities Services is kept busy maintaining the Legislative Precinct and the Parliament Buildings. Over the next few months, a couple of major projects will be undertaken:

- The fountain at the back of the precinct will be cordoned off for several weeks in late-March so that the lighting in the fountain can be updated.
- The driveway will be closed from early-July until the end of September so that new pavement can be installed. Signs will direct visitors to alternate paths for entering the building during construction.

To update your contact info, or to unsubscribe to this newsletter, email: [PEO@leg.bc.ca](mailto:PEO@leg.bc.ca)

Do you have a story your fellow BCTI Alumni might be interested in? Email: [PEO@leg.bc.ca](mailto:PEO@leg.bc.ca)

## Parliamentary Trivia

**Q.** After winning the competition to design the Parliament Buildings, Francis Rattenbury went on to design many well-known buildings around the province.

Which of the following was NOT designed by Francis Rattenbury:

- The current Vancouver Art Gallery
- The Empress Hotel
- The Nelson Courthouse
- The current Hotel Vancouver
- The Nanaimo Courthouse

Email your answer to [PEO@leg.bc.ca](mailto:PEO@leg.bc.ca) to win a prize pack from the gift shop.