

# History of the Parliament Buildings



Home to the  
Legislative Assembly,  
British Columbia's Parliament  
Buildings have stood on this spot  
for over 115 years. This exhibit  
illustrates the history of the  
Parliament Buildings, from the  
colonial period through to  
modern times.

# Maintaining the Buildings into the 21st Century



The Parliament Buildings are illuminated each night with thousands of energy efficient cold cathode fluorescent lights.



In 2010, the electrical wiring was updated in the Legislative Chamber.

In recent years, enhancements have been made to ensure that the Parliament Buildings meet the modern needs of the Legislative Assembly and its elected Members.

For example, changes have been made to improve the energy efficiency and environmental impact of the buildings. In 2007, all of the exterior white light bulbs that illuminate the Parliament Buildings each night were replaced with energy efficient cold cathode fluorescent lights. These new bulbs have resulted in both energy savings and reduced maintenance and replacement costs.

Other changes in recent years include updates to the plumbing and electrical systems, and the addition of computers and Internet connectivity, Wi-Fi wireless technology and modern security systems.

When the Parliament Buildings were constructed, few provisions were made in the plans to accommodate people with disabilities. Recent efforts have been undertaken to improve the accessibility of the Parliament Buildings and Legislative Precinct. In 2013, a new entrance was unveiled at the front of the Parliament Buildings to enhance barrier-free access. Called the Mowat Entrance, it features a wide, gently curving ramp that exceeds modern building codes. Other ramps have also been constructed to provide better access to the Premier's Rose Garden and Back Fountain. In addition, automatic doors and card locks have been added to improve barrier-free access within the buildings.

Moving forward, the Parliament Buildings will continue to be adapted to serve as a modern workplace environment, while ensuring that they retain their original character and splendour.



In 2013, the fully accessible Mowat Entrance was unveiled.



Today, recorded proceedings of the Legislative Assembly are broadcast throughout the province and webcast on the Internet. These operations are performed and monitored in the Hansard Control Room.