



BCTI Alumni NEWS

issue 1 | volume 21 | May 2019

Summer Tour Program Updates

The May Long-Weekend marked the beginning of another busy summer season. Over the next four months, we expect over 100,000 school children and visitors from across British Columbia and around the world to visit the Parliament Buildings.

This summer, 15 post-secondary students were hired to explain to our visitors about the role of MLAs, the art and architecture of these beautiful buildings, and the history of our province. All of the summer guides must speak at least one additional language as tours are offered in a variety of languages. They are joined on their tours by some interesting characters from British Columbia's past, including Queen Victoria, Nellie Cashman, Francis Rattenbury, Hamish the stonemason, Mary Ellen Smith, and Thomas Uphill.

If you are in Victoria this summer, be sure to come by for a fun and informative tour of the buildings. Guided tours are free and are offered 7 days a week until Labour Day.

For more information, please email tours@leg.bc.ca or call (250) 387-6668.



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



Exciting News! The B.C. Parliament Buildings have won a 2019 Experts' Choice Award as an outstanding attraction worldwide!

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia Teachers' Institute
on Parliamentary Democracy



Upcoming Institute: October 22-26, 2019

We are currently accepting applications for our annual session of the [B.C. Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy](#), scheduled for October 22-26, 2019.

As Alumni of the Institute, your assistance in promoting this opportunity amongst your colleagues would be greatly appreciated. Applications from learning assistance teachers, administrators or educators who are not currently working in a classroom setting will also be considered. If you would like to receive a promotional poster to display in your staff room or informational bookmarks to give to colleagues at your school, please email PEO@leg.bc.ca.

[Online Application Deadline](#): June 28, 2019

Apply Now to Facilitate at a Future Session of the Institute

Teachers who have attended a prior session of the B.C. 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 must be able to promote discussion and critical inquiry into key aspects of parliamentary democracy. Successful applicants will have their travel, accommodation, meals and Teacher Teaching on Call costs paid for by the program.

We are currently accepting facilitator applications for future Institute sessions.

Complete the [Facilitator Application Form](#) online. If your application is approved and you are selected to facilitate at a future Institute session, you will be required to complete a registration form. Please email PEO@leg.bc.ca if you need to retrieve your original 10 digit applicant tracking number; this number is required for your facilitator application.



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Did You Know?



Parliamentary Babies and the Standing Orders

Guests in the public galleries of the Legislative Chamber and Hansard Broadcasting viewers may have noticed a more youthful presence on the floor of the House over the past two sessions of the 41st Parliament. No, this baby-faced being isn't the youngest Member of the Legislative Assembly to ever hold office in British Columbia. He is, in fact, a real baby named Zavier and the son of the Hon. Michelle Mungall, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and the MLA for Nelson-Creston.

Baby Zavier's parliamentary debut in October 2018 at the tender age of three months was made possible by an earlier amendment to the Standing Orders – the formal written rules adopted by the Legislative Assembly to govern its proceedings. On March 8, 2018 – International Women's Day – the Government House Leader called a motion to amend Standing Order 23, which pertains to the presence of "strangers" on the floor of the House and allows the Speaker or Chairperson to order their withdrawal. Motion 5 – unanimously approved by all MLAs – amended Standing Order 23 to state that "a stranger does not include an infant being cared for by a Member."

This change was met with support from all sides of the House, with several MLAs commenting that it was a significant step towards making both the Legislative Assembly and elected office more family-friendly. Others credited Linda Reid, former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the longest-serving MLA in the current parliament, for a number of earlier strides towards inclusivity for women and parents, including the extension of maternity benefits to MLAs.

It is worth noting that this modernization of the Standing Orders allows for parents or caregivers of any gender to care for an infant on the floor of the House while it is in session. Stay tuned to see if Baby Zavier gains any parliamentary playmates down the line.

By Jennifer Ives-Fournet, Parliamentary Education Officer



The Standing Orders of British Columbia's Legislative Assembly were adopted on February 20, 1930. They have been amended a number of times – most recently in April 2018. The continuing or "standing" nature of these rules means that they remain in effect until the House itself decides to suspend, change or replace them. Temporary sessional orders change or supplement existing rules for the session in which they were adopted, while special orders may apply to a single or special occasion. View the current Standing Orders [here](#).

what
are

your
ideas?

2020
BC BUDGET
CONSULTATION

BRING YOUR CLASS TO A PUBLIC HEARING*

June 10: **Colwood**

June 11: **Kimberley** and **Castlegar**

June 12: **Kelowna** and **Kamloops**

June 13: **Courtenay** and **Qualicum**

June 14: **Vancouver**

June 17: **Prince Rupert**

June 18: **Kitimat** and **Prince George**

June 19: **Fort St. John** and **Quesnel**

June 20: **Abbotsford**

June 21: **Surrey**

Schedule subject to change*

Classes are invited to present their ideas for the next provincial budget at a public hearing or simply attend and observe.

Learn about parliamentary committees, the Legislative Assembly, and the budget process.

To **bring your class** to participate in a public hearing please email Katey Stickle at **Katey.Stickle@leg.bc.ca**.

Students can also participate by providing written comments, sending in a video submission or filling out the online survey between **June 3-28, 2019**.

For full details on the consultation, please visit our website.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Select Standing Committee on
Finance and Government Services

bcleg.ca/FGSbudget



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Muggins, the Red Cross Dog

Every now and then, I get a question on tour that I cannot answer, and the very knowledgeable staff of the Legislative Library are always most helpful to me. A few months ago, I nearly stumped our lovely librarians with a query concerning a stuffed dog named Muggins, who was supposedly housed in the Legislative Library's vault.

During the First World War, a small, white, Spitz Pomeranian named Muggins would sit at the corner of Belleville and Government Street with a Red Cross collection box for passersby to drop monies for the war effort. According to a 1939 article in the Times Colonist (a full page spread, no less), Muggins raised over \$14,000 in that spot alone. That total doesn't include all the other charitable organizations he raised money for after the War. Through his success, Muggins became quite the local celebrity; when Edward, Prince of Wales visited Victoria, he was gifted a framed photo of Muggins from Premier John Oliver. In response, the heir to the British Throne said: "Among the defenders of civilization may be reckoned some of the four-footed creation. Thanks Muggins, and thanks again to you as well as other animal friends of man, it is due in a large portion of the Empire's success. Muggins, in the name of the Empire, I salute you."



Okay, so the photos are cute and the story fantastic, but what does this really have to do with the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia? In



1920, it was sadly reported that poor Muggins succumbed to a short battle with pneumonia. In that same article, the last line reads: "[His owners] intend having the body mounted, and it is understood they are requesting the Provincial Government to place this in the Parliament Buildings here until such time as the Victoria war memorial is established."

Erika Luebbe, Manager of Reference Services, did some library sleuthing, but could not find any evidence pointing towards Muggins' mounted body having been permanently entombed anywhere in the buildings. In fact, we think he is now little more than a small pelt used as a foot warmer on a family descendant's bed. Nevertheless, this little dog, his good will towards his two-legged friends, and his warm spirit lives on in all of us. Thanks Muggins, we salute you.

By Adriana Ayers, Parliamentary Education Officer at the Legislative Assembly of BC

Fighting Misinformation from the Classroom

One of the most significant threats facing democracies today is the proliferation of mis- and disinformation online. Citizens must navigate an information ecosystem where it is increasingly challenging to separate fact from fiction and to recognize credible information.

Developing effective information literacy skills has the potential to make a real and lasting impact on the next generation's ability to contextualize and assess news and information from any source.

For this reason, CIVIX — the non-profit organization behind the nationwide Student Vote parallel election program — has developed tools teachers can use to help students think critically about information, check facts, and evaluate sources.

Through these materials, students take a solution-oriented look at themes such as the 'fake news' problem and its potential consequences for democracy, the role of algorithms in determining what we see online, and standards of professional journalism. Learning materials include lesson plans, videos and interactive activities.

To register for access to these free materials, please visit www.studentvote.ca/newswise, or call toll-free 1.866.488.8775.

By Jessica Johnston, Director of News Literacy Programming, CIVIX



CIVIX News Literacy activity highlights include:

FakeOut — Can you tell the difference between real and fake news? This gamified interactive helps students practice fact-checking skills.

Feed for Thought — What is the relationship between the information we consume and the decisions we make? Students learn first-hand about the role of social media algorithms in creating 'filter bubbles' that can affect democracy.

Framework for Questioning images — How do images inform how we understand people, issues, and events? Students learn to analyze the purpose and meaning behind images, and practice the skills to identify misleading images online.

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Democracy & Me Creative Contest to Launch in Fall 2019

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor of B.C. and the Legislative Assembly of B.C. are working jointly to offer an exciting opportunity for K-12 students in the fall of 2019. The *Democracy & Me* Creative Contest will invite students to submit a creative response (a drawing, painting, poster, collage or other form of visual art) in answer to a Contest question in their respective grade category: K-4, 5-8 or 9-12. The Contest will be judged by a panel including the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and an educator. Prizes will be awarded and the winning entries and semifinalists will be highlighted in a temporary exhibit, with all eligible submissions featured online. Stay tuned for more information about the *Democracy and Me* Creative Contest towards the end of summer and the start of the new school year!

Rudi's Tea Room at Government House

Rudi's Tea Room at Government House officially opened for the season on May 21. The Tea Room offers lunch, tea, pastries and other refreshments from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Visitors can dine on the patio or purchase a picnic lunch to enjoy in the grounds of Government House. The Tea Room is located in Butterworth Cottage and forms part of the Cary Castle Mews, a cluster of 19th century wooden service buildings located on the southeast side of the Government House estate. Visitors can also explore an Interpretive Centre, Heraldry Exhibit and Costume Museum. For more information, please visit the [Government House website](#).



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

Email: PEO@leg.bc.ca



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[Legislative Assembly of BC](#)

To update your contact info or
to unsubscribe to this newsletter,
email: PEO@leg.bc.ca

Parliamentary Trivia

When the House is in session, B.C. MLAs participate in Question Period every Monday to Thursday. It is an intense 30-minute period of rapid-fire questions from MLAs to the Premier and/or Cabinet ministers.

Q. When did B.C. add a daily question period to assembly proceedings?

- A. 1973
- B. 1918
- C. 1871

Email your answer to PEO@leg.bc.ca to win a prize pack from the Parliamentary Gift Shop!

