

# DISCOVER YOUR LEGISLATURE



*Discover Your Legislature* is divided into four sections, information is presented in a thoughtful and accessible manner and this is a must-use resource for Social Studies curriculum as well as providing excellent additional resources for other content areas. Within its four sections - Purpose, People, Place and History - you can easily find the answers for quests for more knowledge about BC's democracy. Hyperlinks make it easy to find further details about the Parliament Buildings.

## **PURPOSE - Constitutional Framework and Governance, About the Legislative Assembly, Parliamentary Proceedings, Parliamentary Committees, House Documents.**

This first section provides every answer to every question regarding all aspects of governing the province. In a text rich presentation with supporting visuals, you can research any particular detail about the operations of the Legislative Assembly under the Purpose heading. Students should only be assigned to one section to learn about and then possibly teach their classmates about it, as there is a large amount of content available.

*Best match to curriculums: Social Studies 10 and Political Studies 12 (details on next page)*

## **PEOPLE - Members of the Legislative Assembly, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Lieutenant Governor, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Sergeant-at-Arms, Statutory Officers.**

Section two provides you with the opportunity to become experts on the individuals who are elected or appointed to run all affairs of the Legislative Assembly. Each heading goes into significant detail about the role the individual plays in the system as well as details of the position. Students would have ample information to take on one of the roles described in a role-playing scenario or take on the position in a model Legislative Assembly.

*Best match to curriculums: Social Studies 5, Social Studies 10, Political Studies 12 (details on next page)*

## **PLACE - Visiting the Legislative Assembly, Building History, Building Tour, Provincial and Parliamentary Symbols.**

Section three provides an outstanding overview of the Parliament Buildings, their creation, why things are placed where they are, and how the Parliament Buildings have evolved over time. For teachers wanting their learners to have a clearer sense of place with regard to B.C.'s Legislative Assembly, this section lends itself to understanding how and why the Parliament Buildings came to be, what they are today, and who was involved in the decision-making process and who wasn't.

*Best match to curriculums: Social Studies 5, Social Studies 10, Political Studies 12 (details on next page)*

## **HISTORY - Presented within Timeframes**

The last section is divided into multiple timeframes to allow teachers and learners to focus in upon a particular era or historical issue: Up to 1858, 1859-1870, 1871-1899, 1900-1917, 1918-1945, 1946-1971, 1972-2000, 2001-2012, and 2013-Present. Within each grouping, you can find still photographs or video clips to support the event being reviewed. Indigenous history, electoral history, feminist history, political history along with a myriad of other topics are presented within these timeframes. Application for students could include an annotated timeline through a specific historical lens or a biographical overview of a key person in BC's history.

There is a fantastic [Virtual Classroom Program](#) available to book online. Students have the opportunity to learn about all aspects of the Legislative Assembly in a fun and engaging way. Working with sections one, two and/or three of *Discover Your Legislature* would be beneficial prior to participating in the Virtual Classroom program.

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For more learning resources, visit  
[www.leg.bc.ca/learning-resources](http://www.leg.bc.ca/learning-resources)



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## Direct Curriculum Matches

Within the Social Studies Curriculum framework, Core Competencies, Curricular Competencies as well as Content elaborations provide the basis to develop the pedagogy necessary to meet the expectations of student learning in this realm.

### Social Studies 5 - Canadian Issues and Governance

#### Big Ideas

- Canada's policies and treatment of minority peoples have negative and positive legacies
- Canadian institutions and government reflect the challenge of our regional diversity

#### Learning Standards - Content

- levels of government (First Peoples, federal, provincial, and municipal), their main functions, and sources of funding)
- Participation and representation in Canada's system of government
- First Peoples land ownership and use

### Social Studies 10 - Canada and the World: 1914 - Present

#### Big Ideas

- The development of political institutions is influenced by economic, social, ideological, and geographic factors.
- Historical and contemporary injustices challenge the narrative and identity of Canada as an inclusive, multicultural society.

#### Learning Standards - Content

- Government, First Peoples governance, political institutions, and ideologies
- Advocacy for human rights, including findings and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

### Political Studies 12

#### Big Ideas

- Understanding how political decisions are

made is critical to being an informed and engaged citizen.

- Decision making in a democratic system of government is influenced by the distribution of political and social power.

### Political Studies 12 (cont.)

#### Learning Standards - Content

- Structure and function of Canadian and First Peoples political institutions
- Issues in local, regional, national, and international politics
- Major ideologies and political systems
- Election processes and electoral systems

### BC First Peoples 12

#### Big Ideas

- The impact of contact and colonialism continues to affect the political, social, and economic lives of B.C. First Peoples.

#### Learning Standards - Content

- Provincial and federal government policies and practices that have affected, and continue to affect, the responses of B.C. First Peoples to colonialism
- Impact of historical exchanges of ideas, practices, and materials among local B.C. First Peoples and with non-Indigenous peoples

### Social Justice 12

#### Big Ideas

- The causes of social injustice are complex and have lasting impacts on society.

#### Learning Standards - Content

- Social injustices in Canada and the world affecting individuals, groups, and society
- Governmental and non-governmental organizations in issues of social justice and injustice

