



# Preparing for your visit to the Parliament Buildings Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

**The following information will help you prepare for your tour of the Parliament Buildings. We hope that you will enjoy your visit!**

## Arrival Information

Please arrive at the School Entrance 10 minutes before your tour. The School Entrance is located at the back of the Parliament Buildings (off of Government Street). Let us know if a member of your group would prefer to use an accessible entrance.

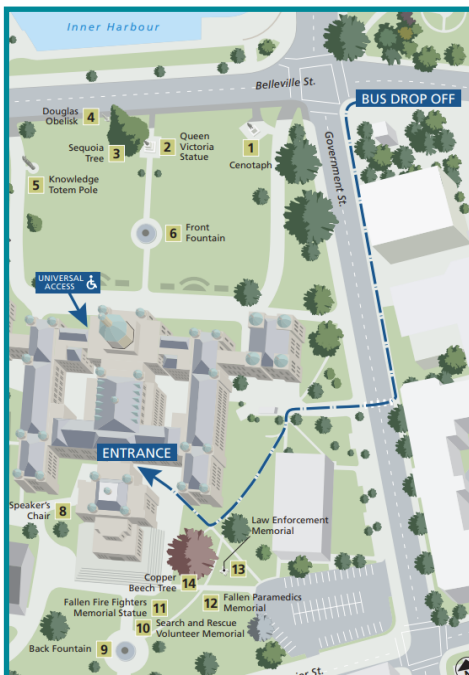
There is no public parking on the property. A bus drop off area is located in front of the Royal B.C. Museum. Check the [Transportation and Parking](#) page for more information.

Call 250-387-6668 if you are running late and we will do our best to reschedule your tour.



**School Entrance**

## Tour Information



Plan to spend about one hour for a guided tour, or 1.5 hours if you are also booked to observe debates in the Public Gallery.

The focus of the tour is on the role of the Legislative Assembly, the provincial level of government, and the history of the Parliament Buildings. Please speak with your tour guide if there is a topic of specific interest to your class.

Please note that some of the rooms that are normally included on the guided tour will be closed if you visit on a day when the Legislative Assembly is meeting. Tours may also be cancelled at any time due to events on the Legislative Precinct.

We will notify your school's MLA of your visit and invite them to meet with your class. As the MLAs have very busy schedules, we cannot guarantee their availability at the time of your visit.



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## Observing Debates

School groups that have booked time in the **Public Gallery** will have up to 20 minutes to observe debates. Time in the Public Gallery is limited to accommodate all of the school groups who wish to observe debates.

Students must pass through a metal detector before entering the Public Gallery. Phones, coats, and bags will be stored in a secure area while you are in the Gallery.

**Question Period** accounts for 30 minutes of the Legislative Assembly's daily schedule. Most groups will not see Question Period, but will see the MLAs discussing **proposed legislation** or reviewing **finances**.

As the MLAs discuss many important issues, please be aware that sensitive topics may be covered while your group is in the Gallery.

## Other Information

Students and teachers must remain with the tour guide during the guided tour.

We do not have a space to store bags or backpacks during the tour.

A quiet room is available for a student to relax if they are feeling overwhelmed. Please speak with your tour guide if a student in your class requires access.

## Before Your Tour

Book an online **Virtual Classroom Session** for an introduction to the topics that will be covered on the guided tour.

Take a **virtual tour** and complete the **virtual scavenger hunt**.

Check out the **Learning Resources** page for lots of fun activities and resources, including **Calendar Conundrum**, **Library Statues**, fact sheets, and videos.

Learn about your **school's MLA**, including biographical information and contact information.

## After Your Tour

Book a **Virtual Classroom Session** to expand upon what you learned on tour.

Invite your **school's MLA** to visit your classroom, arrange a visit to their constituency office, or have the students send your MLA a letter/email.

Apply to the **B.C. Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy**.

Learn about **Parliamentary Committees** and **public consultations**.

Reach out to a local First Nation, municipal town hall, or your school's Member of Parliament to learn about other levels of government in Canada.

If there is anything about your visit that we should know or if you have any questions, please email [tours@leg.bc.ca](mailto:tours@leg.bc.ca).