

BCTI Gazette

A Parliamentary Education Newsletter for BC Teachers



issue 1 | volume 15 | November 2022

read time: 12-15 minutes



BCTI - Back in Assembly

Returning for the first time since 2019, the 23rd BC Teachers Institute was a success

Twenty BC teachers embarked on a memorable learning experience in our capital city starting October 18. After making their way along the sunlit inner harbour, the teachers enjoyed breakfast in the Parliamentary Dining Room before beginning their educational journey into Parliamentary Democracy in BC. With lanyards and door passes at the ready, teachers explored the hallways, committee rooms, and Legislative Chamber while learning about the history of the building and the MLAs working here. Welcomed by the Speaker of the House, the Honourable Raj Chouhan, teachers briefly relaxed in the comfortable chairs of the legislative chamber before being whisked through 800 years of parliamentary history with the Clerk of the House, Kate Ryan-Lloyd. Artour Sogomonian, Clerk Assistant, brought teachers up to date with current practices in parliamentary procedure, briefing them for the next three days of presentations by departments supporting four main aspects of the Legislative Assembly: purpose, people, place and history. Teacher highlights from the Institute included meeting with representatives from the three political parties during a Q & A panel with MLAs, observing Question Period from the public galleries, and learning about the judicial system with Chief Justice Gaul at the BC Supreme Court. To wrap up their four days of intensive in-person learning, teachers created lesson plans to use in their classrooms – which will soon be available on our website. Leah Judd, BCTI 2013 alumna, also joined teachers back in person at the Legislative Assembly. Leah is the new Parliamentary Education Officer and looks forward to working with teachers from across BC. Applications open for the 2023 BC Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy in April – we welcome teachers from K-12 to apply.



New Party Leader and Premier

In British Columbia's system of parliamentary democracy, the party leader with the backing of a majority of the Members of the Legislative Assembly is normally asked by the Lieutenant Governor to form government by taking office as Premier and recommending the appointment of other Members to serve as Ministers. On June 28, 2022, Premier Horgan announced his plan to step down as Premier for health reasons, indicating that he will continue in the position until the BC NDP chooses a new leader and will remain on as the Member for Langford – Juan de Fuca until the next provincial general election. The BC NDP established a leadership election process in which the winner of the leadership race would become the leader of the BC NDP and, given that a majority of the Members of the Legislative Assembly are from that party, it is expected that the Lieutenant Governor would ask the new leader to serve as Premier. David Eby, K.C. Member for Vancouver-Point Grey, will be sworn in as the next Premier of British Columbia on November 18, 2022 by Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin. **Submitted by Natalie Beaton**

Parliamentary Players: In Person and On Site!

Plan to come see our Past and Present Travelling Plays next season



Since they first appeared in the summer of 1998, the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia has hosted Parliamentary Players—a diverse and enthusiastic team of university students hired as costumed interpreters. This past summer, for its 25th anniversary, the program evolved into something even better: The Parliamentary Past and Present Travelling Plays. These free and fun theatrical presentations travelled around the outside of the Parliament Buildings and whisked visitors back in time. Guests that joined **A House for Democracy** found themselves face-to-face with the notorious architect of the Parliament Buildings, Francis Rattenbury, who helped them learn about the history of the

site. Especially popular with younger viewers, **My Place in Politics** brought audiences back to 1947 to meet some of the earliest women to sit as MLAs and to participate in the famous Chocolate Bar Strike, which saw 200 children flood the Legislature to protest the rising price of candy. Over the course of the summer, these two performances dazzled about 3000 guests from all over the world and provided an invaluable experience for their young stars. “It’s lovely to interact with all different kinds of people, young and old, and have them get lost into a world that we all create together,” says Isabella Derilo, one of the program’s actors. “It’s fun, educational and accessible, something that I personally love to see when we are talking about Parliament.”

Next season, the PEO hopes to make these shows available to school groups visiting the Parliament Buildings before or after their tours. Keep an eye on our website for more information in the spring.

Education Steering Committee

Welcome to our New Education Steering Committee Members

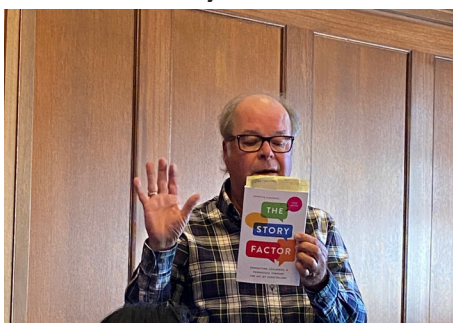
As we said goodbye to our long-time colleagues, Kirk Longpré and Christa Barberis on the Education Steering Committee this past August, we are pleased to welcome Toulia Kontos and Suzanne Uher. Completing our five-member committee, is Jonathan Boone, who agreed to stay on for one more year – what a trooper!



Goodbye Christa!

Toulia Kontos, a BCTI participant in the Fall of 2018 brings years of French Immersion teaching in Kerrisdale Elementary. She is also a Teacher in Charge of the North Vancouver Outdoor School with grade 5 campers.

Suzanne Uher, a BCTI participant in the Fall of 2013 brings with her a background in online teaching in Surrey. She has also been a curriculum writer for the Home Educators of Richmond for over 10 years tackling the years 5,000 BCE to 2010 in history!



Thank you Kirk!

The Parliamentary Education Office is thrilled to have new members with such diverse experiences join the committee to provide advice and guidance for all of our educational resources, programs, and initiatives.

BC Hansard Turns 50

The Official Report of Debates (commonly referred to as “Hansard” after the family printing firm that published the debates of the U.K. House of Commons in the 19th century) is a substantially verbatim report of all speakers in Assembly debates and its committees. The report omits repetitions and redundancies while correcting obvious mistakes and preserving the meaning of what is said.

B.C.’s Hansard was first instituted in 1970 when a limited report of House debates was prepared. It became a full report in 1972 when the debates of budget estimates (Committee of Supply) and clause-by-clause debate of bills (Committee of the Whole) were included in the transcript.

Housed in the basement of the Assembly directly under the then-Premier’s office, the original Hansard staff typed more than three million words in their first full session and distributed 3,000 copies of the final reports. Today Hansard Services has modernized to include digital reporting, publishing and broadcasting, as well as facilitating hybrid proceedings of the House and fully virtual parliamentary committee meetings. Most recently, Hansard has launched Automated Speech Recognition to support a streamlined workflow for producing initial transcripts. This workflow is at the leading edge of parliamentary reporting across the Commonwealth.

Picture Caption:

This October, the Hansard Services branch celebrated 50 years of preparing and publishing the daily, verbatim Official Report of Debates for the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. First produced for the first sitting of the 1st Session of the 30th Parliament on October 17, 1972, the Hansard reports have long provided transparency to parliamentary activities.



Significant Dates and Parliamentary Trivia!



- 8th - Indigenous Veterans Day
- 11th - Remembrance Day
- 20th - Transgender Day of Remembrance



- 10th - Human Rights Day
- 11th - Anniversary of the Statute of Westminster
- 17th - Steller’s Jay adopted as BC’s provincial bird



Parliamentary Trivia!

Q. What year was the Steller’s Jay adopted as British Columbia’s official bird?

Check out [Discover Your Legislature](#) to find the answer. The first correct answer will win a prize! Email PEO@leg.bc.ca to submit. Good luck!

The Power and Craft of Storytelling

Professional development book reviews by Kirk Longpré, retired educator, BCTI alumnus, facilitator, former education steering committee member.

Hoggan, James. (2019). *I'm right and you're an idiot: the toxic state of public discourse and how to clean it up*. Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers.

In his examination of the current toxic state of public discourse James Hoggan interviews several thinkers and highly regarded public figures. He focuses on proven techniques to foster more powerful and effective communication. This thoughtful book emphasizes the importance of storytelling to promote dialogue and empathy. A must read for educators who despair at the current state of public discourse.

Biesenbach, Rob. (2018). *Unleash the power of storytelling: win hearts, change minds, get results*. Evanston, IL: Eastlawn Media.

Rob Biesenbach provides a five-

step process for crafting your stories and six ways to ensure they are relevant to your audience. This is an often funny handbook on the craft behind great stories.

Dicks, Matthew. (2018). *Storyworthy: engage, teach, persuade, and change your life through the power of storytelling*. Novato, CA: New World Library.

Mathew Dicks provides engaging tips and techniques for constructing, telling and polishing stories that will hold the attention of your audience. He explains that “when you are entertaining, people learn better. You convey information more effectively. You will become a better teacher, presenter, coach, trainer, CEO, professor, parent and dinner companion.”

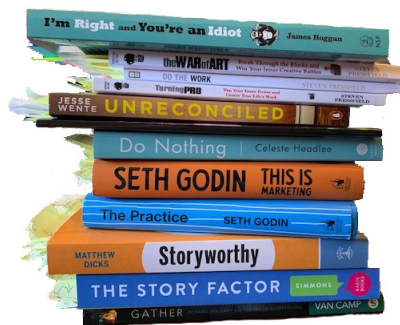
Learning Experiences created by BCTI Alumni

As a new feature to BCTI Alumni Gazette, we share some great learning resources created and tested by teachers for other educators across BC. With close curriculum connections, many of these lesson plans work as a great introduction to a new unit on Civics and Governance. Connecting historical thinking skills and local learning is a wonderful feature of many of the lesson plans created by teachers while at the Institute. Our featured lesson plan for this issue of the Gazette encourages students to look more closely at colonial symbols embedded within our Parliamentary democracy and how those symbols might better reflect the diversity of the many different folks that call British Columbia home.

www.leg.bc.ca/content-peo/Lesson-Plans/RIDing-the-Court-English.pdf

Simmons, Annette. (2019). *The story factor: inspiration, influence, and persuasion through the art of storytelling*. New York, NY: Basic Books.

Annette Simmons captures the role stories play in solving human problems, building community and broadening education. Simmons practical techniques illustrates how story can be used in ways that bullet points and directives can't. This book is essential reading for anyone who wants to become a more effective and motivating communicator.



Van Camp, Richard. (2021). *Gather: Richard Van Camp on the joy of storytelling*. Regina, SK: University of Regina Press.

First Nations author, Richard Van Camp describes his book as a gathering together of stories that will help you when you need some medicine for renewal and inspiration for peace. He demonstrates the power of stories and storytelling to create and maintain community. This collection also includes an excellent list of recommended books and resources on the craft of storytelling.

Land Acknowledgement

We wrote this newsletter in the Parliament Buildings, which are located on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen-speaking (Le-KWUNG-en) peoples. Now known as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, these Coast Salish peoples have a rich culture and history dating back thousands of years. We are thankful to live and work here.

