



BCTI Alumni NEWS

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Visit the Parliament Buildings and the Royal BC Museum with **Governance and Beyond**

by Esther Rzeplinski | Parliamentary Education Coordinator

Last fall the Legislative Assembly of BC and the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) began a partnership to offer BC elementary schools an integrated, day-long program on governance in British Columbia. Geared towards BC's new curriculum, "Governance and Beyond" explores the different ways of governing, beginning with Indigenous ways of knowing and being. The day-long program starts with a Learning Lab at the RBCM and finishes with a guided tour and classroom session at the Parliament Buildings.

The program grew out of dialogue between the Parliamentary Education Office and the RBCM's Learning Department. The majority of elementary school groups already visit both the RBCM and the Parliament Buildings, and there has long been a desire to better complement each other's school programming. This pilot allows for a sharing of knowledge and resources between the two institutions, while also improving the quality of programming that students and teachers receive. Students are able to experience firsthand their museum discussions of democracy when they visit the Parliament Buildings, as well as delve into deeper discussions of First Nations governance at the RBCM.

Book online through the Royal BC Museum's website [here](#).



IN THIS ISSUE

Updates from the Parliamentary Tour Program • Bring Democracy Alive this Spring with Student Vote
New Lesson Plans Created by BC Teachers • October 2017 Session of BC Teachers' Institute • Parliamentary Trivia!
An Opportunity for Secondary Students: British Columbia Youth Parliament • 100 Years of Women and the Vote



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Teacher Update from the Parliamentary Tour Program

Since its opening in February of last year, the designated School Group Entrance at the Parliament Buildings has proven to be a success. Recent enhancements include colourful carpeting, new drapery, a unisex washroom, educational displays and clear outdoor signage.

[Book](#) your spring School Tour of the Parliament Buildings online today!



Bring democracy alive this spring with

STUDENT VOTE

by Lindsay Mazzucco | Chief Operating Officer, CIVIX



Elementary and high schools are invited to engage their students in the May provincial election through the Student Vote program. Student Vote enables teachers to bring democracy alive in the classroom and empowers students to experience the voting process and cast a ballot on the official candidates running in their local electoral district.

Participating schools receive a variety of educational materials to teach government, democracy and the electoral process, and encourage research into the issues, parties and candidates. Authentic ballots and ballot boxes are also provided for the coordination of Student Vote Day.

Studies have shown that the habits of voting and non-voting are established at an early age and persist over time. By practicing the habits of active and engaged citizenship now, students will be more inclined and prepared to participate in our democracy when they reach adulthood.

To register your class or entire school for this free program, visit www.studentvote.ca or call toll free, 1.866.488.8775.



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New Lesson Plans Available Online Now!

Five new lesson plans were created by your provincial colleagues during the Fall 2016 session of the BC Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy. View them now by visiting the [Learning Resources](#) page. Many lesson plans are also available in French!

Grades 4-6:

Today's the Day to Have Your Say: Using Mandate Letters to Cabinet Ministers to Shape Understanding

Grades 6-7:

WWWWWHHIIIB It, WWWWWHHIIB It Good

Grades 6-8 (and adaptable further): Parliament of the Future

Grade 10-11 (Social Studies, Political Studies 11, BC First Peoples 11): Redesigning a Legislature for the 21st Century

Grade 11 (Political Studies): Parliamentary Committees & Student Consultations

Upcoming Fall Institute

October 17-21, 2017



Do you know a teacher who would be interested in participating in a unique professional development program? What about the opportunity to meet the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, MLAs, and collaborate with fellow professionals from across the province?

With planning for another session of the BC Teachers' Institute underway, your assistance in promoting this opportunity amongst your colleagues would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to receive a promotional poster to display in your staff room or informational bookmarks to give to teachers at your school, please email PEO@leg.bc.ca.

Online Application Deadline: June 1, 2017

An Opportunity for Secondary Students

British Columbia Youth Parliament

Each December, youth ages 16 to 21 meet in the Parliament Buildings in Victoria to debate a variety of legislation. Youth Parliaments for 14 to 18 year olds are also held in different regions of the province throughout the year, giving more youth a chance to learn and debate. More information can be found on the [BCYP](#) website.

Parliamentary Trivia!

A provincial general election will be held on May 9, 2017 – 100 years after some women were granted the right to vote in provincial elections.

Q. In what year was the first woman elected to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia?

Email your answer to PEO@leg.bc.ca for a chance to win a commemorative pin!



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

100 Years of *Women* and the Vote

2017 marks 100 years since some women in British Columbia were granted the right to vote in provincial elections. Last fall, in anticipation of the centennial year, the Hon. Linda Reid, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, unveiled a permanent exhibit at the Parliament Buildings entitled **100 Years of Women and the Vote**. This celebration also featured the launch of Equal Voice’s *Daughters of the Vote* – a national program that encourages young women to become engaged in public affairs and inspired to consider public office.



Madame Speaker was joined at the unveiling by both past and present Members of the Legislative Assembly and two young poets who performed original works. The exhibit – on display in the newly named Hall of Honour – highlights a number of significant ‘firsts’ for women elected to the Legislative Assembly.

Comprised of photographic wall installations and interactive kiosks, the exhibit also explores the suffrage movement in BC, biographical information about the featured women, an historical timeline, archival images, original poetry and women’s representation in the Legislative Assembly today.

While the 100th anniversary of this historic legislation is certainly fit for commemoration, it is important to remember that it did not immediately result in universal suffrage for all people in British Columbia. For many, the path to suffrage took much longer owing to persistent racial, ethnic and religious discrimination.



Visit the Parliament Buildings this spring or summer to explore the exhibit, or view the online version of the exhibit [here](#).

by **Jennifer Ives-Fournet** | Parliamentary Education Officer



Mary Ellen Smith
The first woman elected to the Legislative Assembly of BC