



BCTI Alumni NEWS

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Summer Tours at the Parliament Buildings

by Kimberlee Hart, Tour Officer

Every summer, more than 75,000 people participate in free guided tours of the Parliament Buildings. This summer, the Parliamentary Tour Office is excited to welcome nine Summer Tour Guides and four Parliamentary Players to help us educate and entertain visiting school groups, families, and international visitors.

Summer Tour Guides provide interpretive tours that highlight British Columbia's political history, legislative process, and the art and architecture of the Parliament Buildings. This summer our Tour Guides come from a variety of post-secondary institutions across Canada, including the University of Victoria, the University of British Columbia, the University of Northern BC, Simon Fraser University, and the University of Ottawa. We are excited to be able to offer free tours in English, French, German, Japanese, Mandarin, and Russian.

Parliamentary Players shine a light on important historical characters and events that helped to define British Columbia. Dressed in period costume, the Parliamentary Players appear on tours and deliver lively, historically accurate monologues and vignettes. They also walk the grounds of the Parliament Buildings and interact with visitors. Our 2015 Parliamentary Players are students from the University of Victoria with backgrounds in Theatre and Applied Theatre, and will represent Queen Victoria, Francis Mawson Rattenbury, MLA Mary Ellen Smith, and MLA Amor de Cosmos.

Throughout the summer, the Parliamentary Tour Office provides free guided tours seven days a week, including weekends and statutory holidays. Our tours help visitors understand the role of MLAs and the Legislative Assembly of BC as well as the history of the province and the Parliament Buildings. Be sure to take advantage of this unique opportunity to see history and parliamentary procedure come to life, and pop into our Parliamentary Gift Shop to take home a memento of your visit to our beautiful Parliament Buildings!



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Return to the BC Teachers' Institute as a Facilitator

Teachers who have attended a session of the BC 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 will have the ability to promote discussion and critical inquiry into key issues on parliamentary democracy.

Successful applicants will have their accommodation, meals, travel, and TToC costs paid for by the BC Teachers' Institute. The registration fee is waived for facilitators. Applications to become a facilitator at an upcoming Institute are being accepted online now!

[Facilitator Application Form](#)

NEW LESSON PLANS AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW!

Three new lesson plans were created by your provincial colleagues during the Winter 2015 session of the BC Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy. View them online now by visiting the [Learning Resources](#) page.

Grades 5-11:

MLA: To Be or Not to Be?

Grade 11:

You Have a Problem with This... There Will Be a Bill for That

Social Studies 11, Social Justice 12, Civics 11, First Nations 12:

Using the Legislative Process for Social Change

Upcoming | October Fall Institute | 20-24, 2015



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.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, June 30, 2015

BCTI Alumni Corner

To complete a BCTI Alumni Survey or to view photos of past Institutes, visit the Alumni Corner.

For any other inquiries, to update your contact info, or to unsubscribe to this newsletter, email: PEO@leg.bc.ca.





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1215 2015 Magna Carta



June 2015 marks the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta – the ‘Great Charter’ – by John, King of England, at Runnymede near the River Thames in the south of England.

This thirteenth century peace treaty between a defiant English king and his rebellious barons has long been considered one of the most seminal documents in English history. Its most enduring principles have helped to shape notions of justice, law and democracy for centuries.

Beginning in mid-June, the Legislative Assembly will be featuring a public display on the history and legacy of Magna Carta.

Tracing the impact of Magna Carta - from its feudal origins through to modern times - the display will examine its relationship to concepts of due process under the law, the institution of parliament and many constitutional documents and charters worldwide.



Royal BC Museum, BC Archives, A-08547

CENTENNIAL of the LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

by Iona Reid, Acquisitions/Serials Librarian

2015 marks the centennial anniversary of the Library wing of the British Columbia Parliament Buildings. On September 15, 1915, the doors to the new library were officially opened, but getting to that point was no small feat. The Legislative Library has existed since 1863, when \$1000 was earmarked by the Assembly to build a library for the use of the House of the Assembly. The original library consisted of a small room off the side of the Chamber in the old Birdcages, and a Member of the Legislative Assembly was appointed during the session to oversee it.

The Library became more established when R. E. Gosnell became the first Legislative Librarian in 1893 and when the *Legislative Library Act* was passed in 1894. Gosnell had grand dreams for the Library and began actively building collections that supported the legislative efforts of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and recorded the history of the province and Pacific North West. Much of this collection later went on to form the B.C. Provincial Archives.

When the Library moved out of the Birdcages and into the new Parliament Buildings in 1898, it became quite clear that space would be an issue for the Library’s growing collection. The dream of a proper home for the Library was achieved in 1912 when the Duke of Connaught, Governor General of Canada, Legislative Librarian E.O.S. Schofield, and architect Francis Rattenbury, laid the cornerstone of the Library.

The Library’s mandate has been to meet the information needs of the Members of the Assembly for over 100 years, but how librarians find information has changed dramatically in the later half of the 20th century. Today the librarians communicate with Members through email and offer resources through applications. From card catalogues to e-readers, the Legislative Library of British Columbia strives to meet Member’s information needs.



Interior view of the Library’s central dome



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Update on... *Capital for Kids Travel Funding*

Applications are available online now for travel planned between **September 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016** and are being accepted on a continuous basis.

[Click Here for
More Information](#)

Please note that before applying for travel funding, you must first book a tour of the Parliament Buildings with the Parliamentary Education Office.

For more information or to book a school tour, visit our [website](#).



2015 Federal Election: **Register for Student Vote**

This October, more than 5,000 schools and 600,000 students from across Canada are expected to take part in the largest student parallel election ever conducted.

Student Vote is a hands-on learning program that gives students under the voting age an opportunity to experience the voting process first-hand and build the habits of informed and engaged citizenship.

Students learn about government and the electoral process, and research the issues, parties and candidates through classroom learning, media consumption and campaign events. The program culminates with an authentic vote where students take on the roles of election officials and cast ballots on actual local candidates running in their school's riding. The Student Vote results are shared with the media for broadcast and publication following the close of the official polls.

"Student Vote uses the election as a teachable moment to bring the concepts of citizenship and democracy to life. Instead of studying about democracy from a textbook, students experience it first-hand with pertinent issues in real-time," says Lindsay Mazzucco, Chief Operating Officer of CIVIX.

The next Student Vote program will take place in conjunction with the 2015 federal election scheduled for October 19, 2015. The program is free and open to all British Columbia schools.

Registered schools will receive educational resources, posters, riding maps, ballots and ballot boxes in early September.

Learn more by visiting www.studentvote.ca or calling toll free: **1-866-488-8775**



Parliamentary Trivia



Q. Magna Carta's key principles informed which important document entrenched in Canada's Constitution?

Email your answer to PEO@leg.bc.ca

The first correct respondent will receive a prize from the Parliamentary Gift Shop!