

BCTI Gazette

A Parliamentary Education Newsletter for BC Teachers



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read time: 5–6 minutes



Stained glass window, Parliament Buildings

A Message from the Parliamentary Education Office

We trust this issue of the BCTI Gazette finds you well during these challenging times. The following pages highlight a range of online materials, activities, and learning opportunities from the Parliamentary Education Office and our partners in the Legislative Library, Hansard Services, Parliamentary Committees, Elections BC, and the Royal BC Museum. We hope these resources will prove useful as you adapt your teaching practice to current and future realities.

The Parliamentary Education Office is also undergoing a period of adjustment. In keeping with public health recommendations, the Parliament Buildings remain closed to the public at this time. All staff in our department are working remotely and a number of our educational offerings—including school tours and the 2020 Summer Guide and Parliamentary Players Programs—are regrettably cancelled. We are eagerly planning towards the day when our onsite tours and programs can resume safely.

Owing to the uncertainty of the public health landscape in the coming months, we have also decided to postpone the October session of the B.C. Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy. We next hope to host educators from around the province at this long-standing professional development opportunity in late-February or early-March 2021. We will also be recruiting both Institute Facilitators and two new members for our Education Steering Committee from amongst BCTI Alumni in the coming months. Please stay tuned for further information about these opportunities.

In the meantime, if you have ideas for new resources about parliamentary democracy, the Legislative Assembly, or British Columbia's Parliament Buildings that would be useful in your classes—virtual or otherwise—we would love to hear from you! Please contact us by [email](#).

Our very best wishes to you and your students.

LEARNING RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS



Activities, Lesson Plans, and Historical Information

Visit the [Learning Resources](#) page for lesson plans, activities, colouring sheets, posters, fact sheets, and videos.

Visit the [Discover Your Legislature](#) page for an interactive program on the Legislative Assembly and history of the Parliament Buildings. An updated version of this resource featuring new content will be launching soon!

View the publications available from the [Legislative Library](#), including the electoral history of B.C. and full lists of B.C. Lieutenant Governors, Premiers, Speakers, and women MLAs.

Members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Proceedings

View the Chamber Poster ([English/French](#)) to learn about the Legislative Assembly and the [MLA Seating Plan](#) to find out where your MLA sits.

Visit the [MLA Finder](#) to learn more about your MLA, including their biographical information, voting record, and a list of speaking topics.

View [transcripts and video](#) of current and past debates (including [video of special events](#) such as the Speech from the Throne and visits from distinguished guests).

See what [Bills](#) have been introduced during the current session of the Legislative Assembly and follow the [Progress of Bills](#) as they make their way to becoming a Law.



Indoor and Outdoor Tour Books

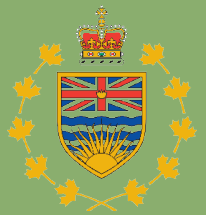
Read the [Self-Directed Guide Book](#) for information on the architecture and history of the Parliament Buildings ([available in 15 languages](#)).

Read the Outdoor Walking Tour book ([English/French](#)) for information on the interesting features found on the Legislative grounds.



Democracy & Me Art Contest

In the fall of 2019, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia partnered to launch the Democracy & Me Art Contest for school-age children and youth in British Columbia. The contest encouraged participants to think about the importance of community, civic engagement, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and democracy.



To highlight the contest's key themes and spark creativity, three distinct questions were provided – one for each grade category. Participants were asked to respond to the contest questions in visual form through the production of handmade or digitally created original art.



And respond they did! By January 31, we had received almost 200 submissions from children and youth across British Columbia. Among the participants were students from over 40 public and independent schools representing nearly 30 different communities and all regions of the province.



Final judging was performed by the Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia; the Honourable Darryl Plecas, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly; and Jon Tupper, Director of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. The contest winners will be announced in May alongside the launch of a virtual art exhibit.



We look forward to celebrating the winning artists with a trip to Victoria to see their art on display once the public health landscape is more stable.

The contest would especially like to thank the teachers who collected and mailed submissions on behalf of their students. We know that coordinating all those permission forms and other details takes time and effort and your dedication is appreciated!

*what
are*

*your
ideas?*

2021 BC BUDGET CONSULTATION

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services' annual budget consultation will take place this **June**. The Committee is looking to hear from British Columbians who want to share their priorities and ideas for the next provincial budget.

Students are invited listen to the public hearings and to send in written, audio or video submissions. This is a great opportunity to learn about parliamentary committees, the Legislative Assembly, and the budget process.

Full details on the consultation will be released on our website and social media channels soon.

If you are interested in learning more and receiving updates on how students can participate, please email Katey Stickle at Katey.Stickle@leg.bc.ca.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA
Select Standing Committee on
Finance and Government Services

bcleg.ca/FGSbudget

 @LegislativeAssemblyBC

 @BCLegislature

 @BCLegislature

Elections BC is the independent, non-partisan Office of the Legislature responsible for administering provincial elections and other electoral events. We create voting and democracy-themed resources for voters and future voters so they have the information and knowledge they need to vote. Here is information about our free resources for students:

List of Future Voters

16 and 17-year-olds who are Canadian citizens and residents of B.C. can now pre-register to vote by joining the List of Future Voters! Joining the List of Future Voters will make it easier for youth to vote when they turn 18. On their 18th birthday they will be added to the Provincial Voters List automatically, and when an election is called they will receive important information from Elections BC about where, when and how to vote. You can encourage eligible youth to register now [online](#).

Online Resources

Check out Elections BC's [website](#) for resources about democracy, the voting process and the history of voting rights.

The resources include:

- o short videos,
- o lesson plans and activities for English language learners, and
- o a Voter's Guide



Democracy in a Box Activity Kit

Elections BC is creating a kit that allows participants to learn about democracy and voting in British Columbia. The kit includes activities for elementary, middle and high school students. It includes an activity booklet with ideas for group activities, such as a mock election, trivia game, electoral district exploration activity, and an activity that examines the history of voting rights.

The kit includes resources for the activities, such as a ballot box, voting screen, trivia cards, wall map of the electoral districts and more. Many of the group activities can be performed virtually, such as the trivia game. For more information or to request the Democracy in a Box Activity Kit, email us at outreach@elections.bc.ca.

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You and your students are highly encouraged to visit the Royal BC Museum and the BC Archives virtually. Following are just a few of their current offerings and resources. Check out the [website](#) for more information.

Digital Field Trips

If you have access to a computer with camera, wired high-speed internet connection, large screen and sound, we can deliver a [Digital Field Trip](#) to your classroom. Digital Field Trips are live, two-way, interactive virtual learning experiences. We can see and hear your learners and they can see and hear us.

They are inquiry-based, staff-led and can incorporate Historical Thinking Concepts, scientific methods and processes and First Peoples Principles of Learning. All Digital Field Trips include pre and post-visit support.

Digital Field Trips are available Monday through Friday, October through June. Programs are 45 minutes long. Cost is \$120 per program, except gallery tours, which are \$75 for a 30 minute tour. For optimum interactivity we suggest one group per booking (25 participants), maximum two groups (50 participants).

Visit the Museum and Archives Virtually

[Learning Portal](#)
[YouTube Channel](#)
[Search Our Collections](#)

RBCM@Home (Office Hours)

Educators (including parents at home!) might use a helping hand these days. [RBCM@Home \(Office Hours\)](#) is online support just for educators, every second Monday and Friday.



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Twitter and Facebook



To update your contact info or to unsubscribe to this newsletter, please [email](#) us.