Legislative Tour Office

What's new?

The Parliament Buildings continue to be a popular destination for school groups from around the province. Last year, we were busier than ever delivering 506 tours to school groups for over 21,000 students!

As over 70% of school groups come in the months of April, May and June, we encourage you to consider visiting at other times in the school year. Visiting during our slower periods makes it easier for you to book a guided tour and offers students a better educational experience as there are fewer groups in the building.

To request a book a tour, go to www.leg.bc.ca/tours. And remember, tours are also available in French and a variety of other languages. Please contact the Tour Office for more information.

- We have established a new Behavioural Expectations form for school groups coming for a tour of the Parliament Buildings. We ask that you bring a signed copy with you on the day of your visit.

- Read our new School Tour FAQ page to answer any questions that you may have about booking a tour and visiting the Parliament Buildings.

- We have also created a new Tips for a Successful Visit package to help you prepare for your tour of the Parliament Buildings. In addition to practical information about your visit, the package also contains links to a variety of educational resources as well as information on what to expect when you are observing debates in the Legislative Assembly.
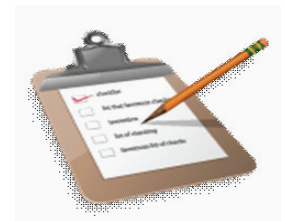
THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

Mobilecast
Video now available for viewing on handheld devices.

BCTI Spring 2011
Applications are being accepted until February 2, 2011.
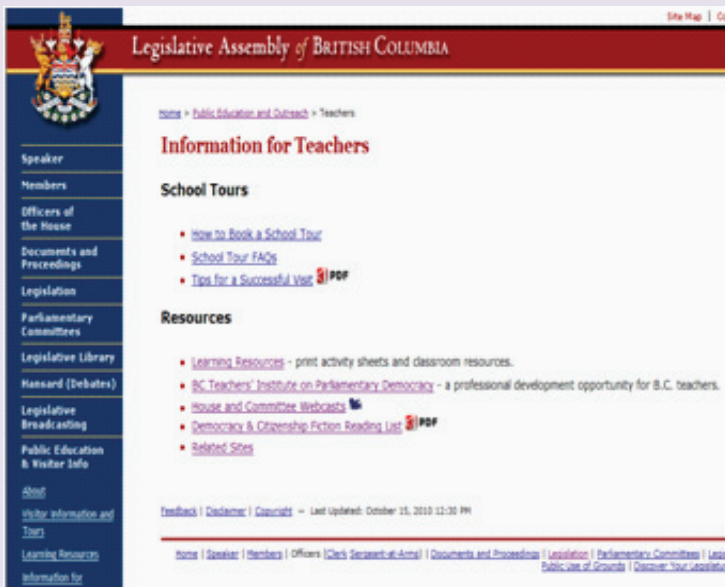
New Educational Resources

A new Information for Teacher's page has been created to provide you with a single point of access to all of our learning resources and information on how to visit the Parliament Buildings with your class. The following are some of the highlights of what you'll find on the page:

- Download our new Legislative Chamber poster to show your students the layout of the Legislative Assembly available in English or French

- Download a Self-Guided Tour Book to learn more about the Parliament Buildings. Self-Guided Tour Books are available in English, French, Dutch, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Portuguese, Punjabi and Spanish. Our newest language is Russian – made available in January 2011. There is also a tour book for ESL students.

Visit the Related Sites section of the Information for Teachers page for an extensive collection of links to other Legislative Assemblies and Government organizations from across Canada and around the world. Many of the sites have excellent information (and free resources) for you to use in the classroom.

- The UK Parliament Education Service page offers a wonderful collection of videos, educational resources, and games.

- The Library of Parliament in Ottawa has a new website that gives access to all of the historical debates in both the Senate and the House of Commons, available in both official languages. Historical debates now available online too.

- The Canadiana.org website http://www2.canadiana.ca/en/home is a combinatin of Canada's museums, archives and libraries and has an amazing variety of digital collections including our nation's documentary heritage. It also houses the Canadiana Discovery Portal - a free service with an online collection that is continually growing, so check back often. http://beta.canadiana.ca/co/en

Hansard Services Introduces Mobilecast

If you would like to watch proceedings of the Legislative Assembly with your class, video of current and past sittings are available on the Hansard Services section of the website. In addition to regular House proceedings, video of special events such as Royal Visits and the Speech from the Throne are also available.

All proceedings of the Legislative Assembly are also now available in a Mobilecast format, which is designed for viewing on handheld devices such as BlackBerry, iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad.

NEW
BCTI Alumni Corner

**Go to: www.leg.bc.ca/bcti
and check out the
NEW BCTI Alumni Corner
under the Upcoming Sessions section**

**Features Include:
BCTI Alumni News
BCTI Online Alumni Survey
Photos
Highlights & Lesson Plans**

Legislative Trivia ?

How many female Members of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia have also served as Speaker?

Hint: Any web-savvy teacher will be able to track this fact down by using one of our educational resources.

**Email your answer to PEO@leg.bc.ca
The first 3 correct answers will win a 2011 Legislative Assembly Gift Shop calendar!**

Upcoming Dates of Interest

February 2, 2011

Application Deadline – BCTI Spring 2011

Please remember to tell your colleagues that February 2nd is the application deadline for the spring B.C. Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy. For more information, visit our website.

February 14, 2011

Speech from the Throne

His Honour Steven L. Point, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, will read the Speech from the Throne to open the 3rd Session of the 39th Parliament.   To learn more, please read our new Speech from the Throne fact sheet (also available en francais).

Fall 2010 BCTI Alumni

February 15, 2011

Budget Speech

The Minister of Finance reads the budget speech in the Legislative Chamber to outline the government's financial plan for the fiscal year ahead. For more information, please read our Budget Process fact sheet. (also available en francais)

March 14, 2011

Commonwealth Day

Commonwealth Day is celebrated each year on the second Monday in March in 54 Commonwealth countries around the world. The Parliament Buildings in Victoria and government buildings across Canada fly the Royal Union Flag in celebration of Commonwealth Day. This year's theme is 'Women as Agents of Change.' www.womenasagentsofchange.org/

Email us at PEO@leg.bc.ca with content ideas, feedback, change of email address, or to unsubscribe.

Feel free to forward this link and share this information with your colleagues!