

# Parliamentary Education Gazette

A Newsletter for B.C. Teachers

Volume 17, No. 4 | October 2024

Read Time: 8 minutes

## Upcoming Professional Development Opportunity

### 2024 PARLIAMENT WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATORS

**DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024**

**TIME: 10:00AM TO 12:00PM (PST)**



#### ABOUT

Join the Parliamentary Education Office for a virtual professional development opportunity on Friday, October 25, 2024, to learn more about the Legislative Assembly of B.C., virtual classroom options and discover our educational resources.

#### MORE INFO & REGISTRATION



#### SIGNIFICANT DATES

OCTOBER  
19, 2024

B.C. Provincial Election Final  
Voting Day

First provincial election is  
held in B.C.

OCTOBER  
THROUGH  
DECEMBER  
1871

# BCTI: Returning Winter 2025



## B.C. TEACHERS' INSTITUTE ON PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY (BCTI)

**February 25 - March 1, 2024**

Participate in a unique professional development program at the Parliament Buildings in your provincial capital.

Learn about parliamentary democracy and become champions of citizenship education. Return to your school with an enhanced understanding of British Columbia's political system.

Meet with the Speaker of the House, MLAs, senior public officials and have a behind-the-scenes tour of your Parliament Buildings. Collaborate and share with your colleagues from across the province!



**DEADLINE TO APPLY:  
NOVEMBER 15, 2024**



**APPLY ONLINE:  
<https://bit.ly/47HkmW6>**



### PARLIAMENTARY TRIVIA

Q: How many ways are there to vote in the 2024 Provincial General Election? Name one.

The first correct answer will win a prize from the Parliamentary Gift Shop! Email [PEO@leg.bc.ca](mailto:PEO@leg.bc.ca) to submit. Good luck!

# Engage with Democracy: 2024 Provincial General Election

## 2024 PROVINCIAL GENERAL ELECTION

B.C.'s 43rd Provincial General Election is in full swing. The writs were issued on September 21, officially kicking off the election which will culminate on final voting day, October 19. Eligible voters can vote at any district electoral office from now until 4 p.m. on October 19, by mail, or at advance voting on October 10-13 and 15-16. Advance voting is closed on Monday, October 14, for Thanksgiving. You can vote if you are:

- A Canadian citizen
- 18 or older on October 19, 2024
- A resident of B.C. since April 18, 2024

Visit [elections.bc.ca/2024election](https://elections.bc.ca/2024election) for more information about how, when and where to cast your ballot.

## Access Learning Resources



NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE!

The Parliamentary Education Office has launched new learning resources to use in the classroom:

### SPOTLIGHT: TELLING THE STORY OF LAWYER AND ACTIVIST DR. DURAI PAL PANDIA

In 1947, after years of struggle, South Asian Canadians finally won the right to vote in British Columbia. One of the key figures in this journey was Dr. Durai Pal Pandia, a lawyer and activist from India that assisted the local community in making their voices heard in the B.C. Parliament Buildings and beyond.

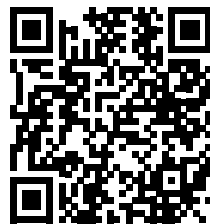
This latest video from the Parliamentary Players brings Dr. Pandia back to life to discuss his contributions and explain how to use petitions, protests and parliamentary committees to advocate for change. This video is a perfect fit for Social Studies 10 classes, as well as those focused on law, politics, and social justice.



[Dr. Pandia Video](#), Parliamentary Players

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- New Legislative Chamber Poster
- [Election Fact Sheet](#)
- [The Road to Democracy](#)
- [The Missing Statues](#)
- [The Five Cent Fight](#)



Find more resources here!

Poster of the Legislative Chamber

## Summer Season Ends at the Parliament Buildings

It was another busy summer season for the Parliamentary Tour Program with over 159,620 British Columbians and visitors from around the world passing through the Parliament Building doors. Up to 33,000 of those visitors joined us for a free guided tour and another 4,250 joined us for one of our Parliament past and present travelling plays. This year we also offered an expanded play and tour program for schools, which brought over 1,000 kids back in time to key moments in B.C.'s history. With the Parliament Building visitor numbers surpassing 2019 records, our summer team worked hard to bring the story of B.C.'s democracy to as many people as possible.

We are now back to our regular business hours, providing free guided tours and self-guided tours on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. With the 2024 election underway, we expect an increase in school tour bookings. We continue to offer different engaging educational opportunities both virtually and in person.



Parliamentary Players, 2024

By: Nicholas Guerreiro, Player Program Coordinator

## Education Steering Committee: Meet Our New Members

LORN KENNEDY

I want to begin by acknowledging that the land I reside in is the traditional territory of the Nadleh Whut'en Peoples. I have had the privilege of raising my family on these beautiful lands and enjoying many shared experiences with the Nadleh folks.

I am of European and Scandinavian descent and was born in Port Alberni, B.C.

My wife and I have travelled through Alaska, the Yukon, northern B.C., northern Alberta, and the Northwest Territories. By far, our favourite place was Dawson City in the Yukon. We finally found Fort Fraser, in B.C.'s northwest, and we fell in love with it and decided to stay! For the past 10 years, we've been living along the banks of the Nechako River. Our wonderful little humans, Sawyer and Parker, are growing up so fast it is unbelievable. We have two dogs: Motley, a blue heeler/border collie, and Rocket, an Estrela Mountain dog crossed with a German shepherd. Our property is totally off the grid, and we run on solar panels.

I have lived and worked in northern B.C. for my entire teaching career, working with various First Nations Peoples. I have taught in Fort Nelson, B.C., Fraser Lake, B.C., and presently in Vanderhoof, B.C. I have taught in schools where the First Nations population is 50 percent or more, in grades 4-12, for my entire career, with a specific focus on literacy. I am a senior humanities teacher at Ebus Academy. I am also a digital course developer, having authored courses at the secondary and post-secondary levels, including Philosophy 12, English First Peoples 11 and 12, Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12, and a previous version of B.C. First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples. I completed my undergraduate degrees at The University of the Fraser Valley (BA) and Simon Fraser University (BEd), my graduate degree (MEd) at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and my post-graduate diploma in transformative education leadership at UBC.



### PARLIAMENTARY TRIVIA

Q: How many writs of election are issued in B.C.?

The first correct answer will win a prize from the Parliamentary Gift Shop! Email [PEO@leg.bc.ca](mailto:PEO@leg.bc.ca) to submit. Good luck!

## MICHAEL COOK

I am currently retired after teaching for 35 years in School District 43 (Coquitlam) as a secondary social studies and humanities teacher. During my tenure, I taught Social Studies grades 8-11, English grades 8-10, Comparative Civilizations 12, and First Nations 12. I also piloted and integrated an honours English and Social Studies Humanities course for grades 8 and 9.

I have a Bachelor of Education degree from Simon Fraser University with minors in history, geography, archaeology/anthropology, classical civilizations, and education. I also have Baccalaureate Diploma from SFU with a focus on Humanities and English. I received a Master of Education in Curriculum Development from the University of British Columbia. Currently, I am working towards a liberal arts degree at SFU. While teaching, I was involved in the B.C. Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy Program as both a participant and as a facilitator and consider it as one of the best professional development opportunities of my career.

## TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

---

We wrote this newsletter in the Parliament Buildings, that are located on the traditional territories of the Lekwugen-speaking 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.

## CONNECT WITH US

---



[Educational Programs & Workshops](#)



[PEO@leg.bc.ca](mailto:PEO@leg.bc.ca)



250-387-8669

