

# THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS



The Legislative Assembly of British Columbia is composed of 93 democratically elected officials, known as Members of the Legislative Assembly (or MLAs). The composition of the Legislative Assembly reflects the diversity found amongst the citizens of British Columbia.

## TERMINOLOGY OF THE BUILDINGS

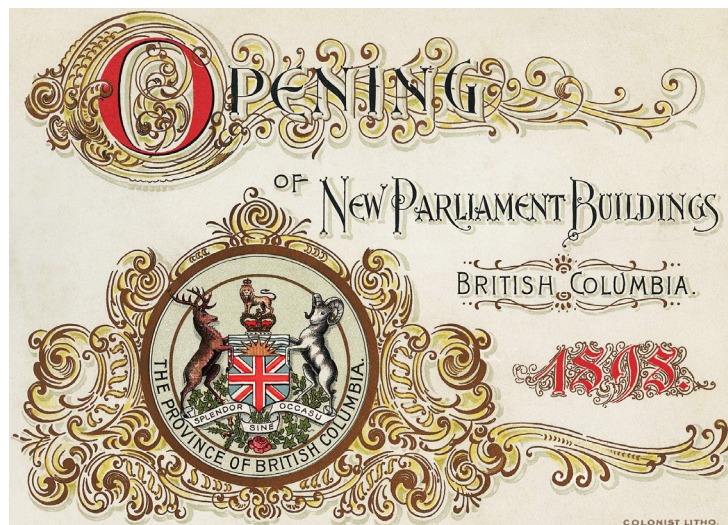
The terms Legislative Assembly, legislative buildings, legislature, and Parliament Buildings are often used interchangeably to describe British Columbia's capital buildings. As a result, there is some confusion as to what the buildings are actually called.

In British Columbia, the proper name for the buildings in which the Legislative Assembly (or legislature) meets is the Parliament Buildings.



The term Legislative Assembly refers to the body of elected officials that are chosen to represent British Columbians, while legislature most accurately describes the Lieutenant Governor acting by and with the consent of the Legislative Assembly.

The Parliament Buildings received their name from an Act of the Legislative Assembly that allowed for their construction. In 1893, when the Legislative Assembly decided to replace the original government buildings on the property, the Colonial Administration Buildings (which were also known as the Birdcages), they passed the *Parliament Buildings Construction Act, 1893*. Since then, all other relevant Acts of the Legislative Assembly refer to the buildings as the Parliament Buildings.



*The invitation used for the official opening of the Parliament Buildings on February 10, 1898.*

There is no single name used to describe the capital buildings or elected representatives throughout Canada's 10 provinces. For example, in Ontario, the Members of the Provincial Parliament (MPP) sit in the Legislative Building at Queen's Park. In Quebec, the Members of the National Assembly (MNA) meet in the Hôtel du Parlement. In both Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) meet in Province House. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the Members of the House of Assembly (MHA) meet in the Confederation Building.

The Parliament Buildings and surrounding areas are located on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen-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.

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