



2009 Legislative Session: 1st Session, 39th Parliament

Government Announcements

- *174 B.C. infrastructure projects to be funded* - The B.C. Government announced 174 new infrastructure projects valued at \$719 million in support of infrastructure projects in communities throughout British Columbia. The announcement represents \$244 million from the Government of Canada, \$233 million from the province of British Columbia, and the remainder from local governments. The funding is being delivered through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund and the Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund. [Read more](#)
- *Enns Report call for improved election date* - The Report of the Budget Process Review Panel, chaired by Douglas Enns, concluded that "the government of British Columbia has made substantial progress on the implementation of recommendations contained in the 1999 Panel's report and that the level of transparency and accountability in the budget process has improved significantly over the past 10 years." The Panel goes on to make several recommendations, including improvements so that the budget process can be completed before the election call. [Read more](#)
- *Legislation to expand wood use in public buildings* - B.C.'s new Wood First Act aims to increase demand for wood products by requiring provincially-funded building projects use wood as the primary construction material. [Read more](#)
- *Additional Hotel Room Tax to stay until 2011* - The two-percent Additional Hotel Room Tax (AHRT), overseen by destination marketing organizations to fund tourism marketing, will remain until at least July 2011. The stay of execution on the AHRT gives the Province time to consult with the tourism industry on how to fund regional destination marketing organizations. The introduction of the HST would have eliminated the AHRT. [Read more](#)
- *Legislation to expand labour mobility* - The new Labour Mobility Act aims to remove longstanding, unproductive and archaic barriers to attract workers to British Columbia. [Read more](#)

Question Period Topics

- Mining exploration permit in Flathead Valley area
- Funding for public health, sports and literacy programs
- Shelter policy for homeless during extreme weather
- Funding for domestic violence programs
- Emergency services at Ashcroft Hospital
- Funding for repairs at Johnston Heights Secondary School
- B.C. Awards Online website
- Early intervention program for children with autism
- Workshops at Housing and Social Development Ministry
- Report recommendations on protection system for victims of domestic violence
- Government action on violence against women
- Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society funding
- Release of report on outbreak at Nanaimo Hospital

Status of Bills

BILLS INTRODUCED (first reading)

Government Bills

- [Bill 8 - Strata Property Amendment Act, 2009](#)
- [Bill 9 - Wood First Act](#)
- [Bill 10 – Protected Areas of British Columbia Amendment Act, 2009](#)
- [Bill 11 - Labour Mobility Act](#)

BILLS DEBATED (second reading)

Government Bills

- [Bill 5 –Finance Statutes Amendment Act, 2009](#)
- [Bill 6 - Insurance Amendment Act, 2009](#)

BILLS PASSED (third reading)

Government Bills

- [Bill 4 - Wills, Estates and Succession Act](#)

Reports Tabled

- [British Columbia Ferry Commission, annual report for fiscal year ended March 31, 2009](#)