



2009 Legislative Session: 1st Session, 39th Parliament

Government Announcements

- *\$15 million Workplace Training for Innovation Pilot program opens* - The new pilot program provides small business employers in British Columbia with access to funding to support employee training, helping improve skills and productivity. Available to all BC employers, the program offers up to \$1,500 per employee – to a maximum of \$5,000 per employer – to support employee training. [Read more](#)
- *New rules for payday loans* - New regulations came into effect Nov. 1, 2009 to limit fees and interest rates charged by payday lenders. A payday loan is less than \$1,500 borrowed for a maximum of 62 days, and is not secured. B.C.'s Business Practices and Consumer Protection (Payday Loans) Amendment Act and the Payday Loans regulation prohibit lenders from requesting an assignment of wages, charging more than 23 per cent of the amount borrowed in interest and fees and lending more than 50 per cent of a borrower's take-home pay. [Read more](#)
- *Lobbyist Registration Act enhanced* – Modeled on the Alberta legislation, B.C.'s amended Act will strengthen reporting requirements for lobbyists and grant the registrar new investigative and enforcement authority. The registrar will be able to conduct investigations and compel testimony. [Read more](#)
- *Province to end reliance on Burrard Thermal Generating Facility* - The Province clarified its intention to the British Columbia Utilities Commission to end BC Hydro's reliance on the Burrard Thermal Generating Facility for energy needs. The decision helps meet the legislative target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by six per cent by 2012, 18 per cent by 2016, and 33 per cent by 2020. [Read more](#)
- *Legislation to end paramedics strike* - The Province is passing an essential services order to end the CUPE 873 strike and restore full emergency care, after seven months of failed attempts to reach an agreement. [Read more](#)

Question Period Topics

- Impact of harmonized sales tax on tourism industry
- Government action on open-net fish farming
- Hosting of Olympic Games dignitaries at Terminal City Club
- Distribution of GamesTown 2010 Olympic Games tickets
- Waiting times for surgeries in B.C.
- Responsibility for H1N1 influenza vaccine program

Status of Bills

BILLS INTRODUCED (first reading)

Government Bills

- Bill 18 - [Assistance to Shelter Act](#)
- Bill 20 - [Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act \(No. 2\), 2009](#)
- Bill 21 - [Ambulance Services Collective Agreement Act](#)

BILLS DEBATED (second reading)

Government Bills

- Bill 14 - [Housing and Social Development Statutes Amendment Act, 2009](#)
- Bill 19 - [Lobbyists Registration Amendment Act, 2009](#)

BILLS PASSED (third reading)

Government Bills

- Bill 7 - [Police \(Misconduct, Complaints, Investigations, Discipline and Proceedings\) Amendment Act, 2009](#)
- Bill 15 - [Motor Vehicle Amendment Act, 2009](#)
- Bill 16 - [Body Armour Control Act](#)
- Bill 17 - [Health Statutes \(Residents' Bill of Rights\) Amendment Act, 2009](#)

Private Bills

- Bill Pr401 - [Verigin Memorial Park Amendment Act, 2009](#)
- Bill Pr402 - [Trustee Board of the Church of God, Richmond Municipality, B.C. \(Corporate Restoration\) Act, 2009](#)
- Bill Pr403 - [Victoria Foundation Amendment Act, 2009](#)