



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
*of* BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Legislative Library

# Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Papers Archives

**Suher Zaher-Mazawi, Archivist**

**Government Information Day 2020: Coast to Coast!**

**December 17, 2020**

# Land Acknowledgment

*I acknowledge that the Parliament Buildings, where I work, and its surrounding areas, where I live, are located on the traditional territories of the **Lekwungen People**, now known as the **Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations**.*



Parliament Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia

# Highlights

## Legislative Library of British Columbia

- About
- Archives program

## MLAs' Activities

- Roles & responsibilities

## MLA Papers Archives

- Records
- Acquisition
- Quick wins
- Next Steps



# Legislative Library of BC

## Mandate:

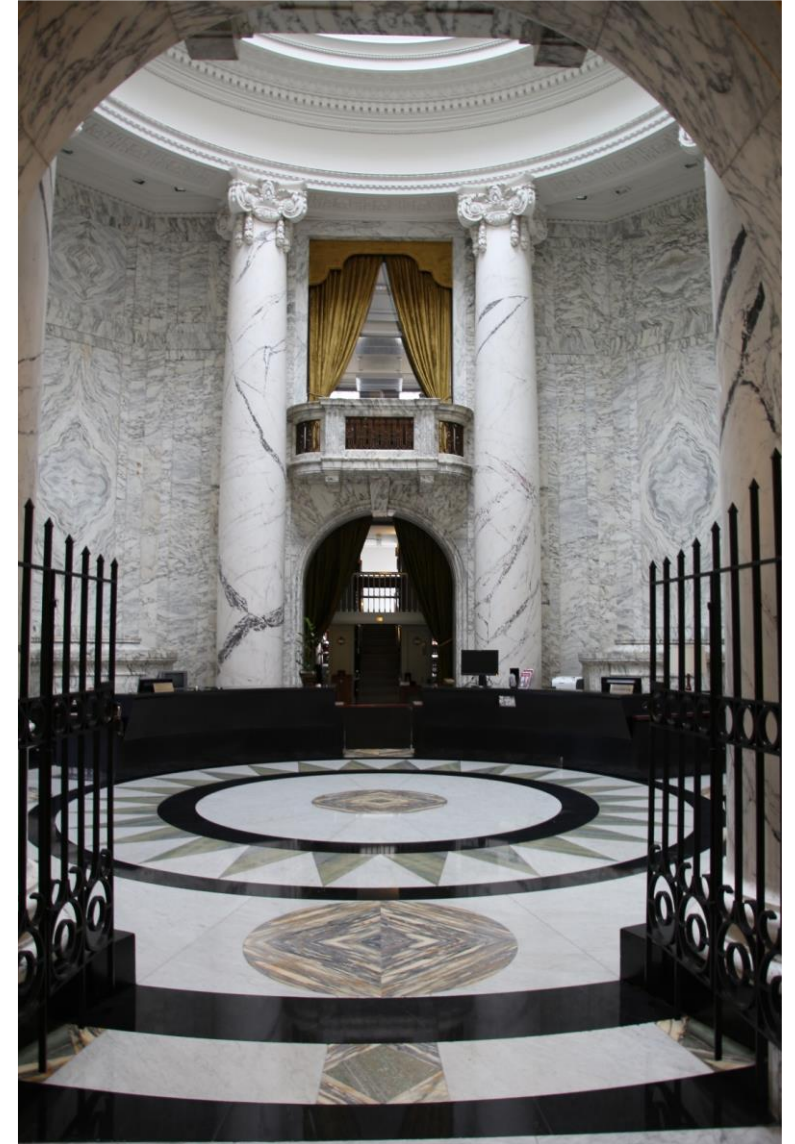
“support the information and research needs of the Legislative Assembly”

## Our Services:

Time Sensitive - Confidential - Non-Partisan

## Collection Scope:

- Extensive subject-based collection
- BC Government & Trade Publications
- Royal Commissions & Commissions of Inquiry
- Reference Collection
- Rare Books & Special Collections
- ***Archival Holdings***



Library Rotunda, Legislative Library of BC

# The Archives Program

## Mission:

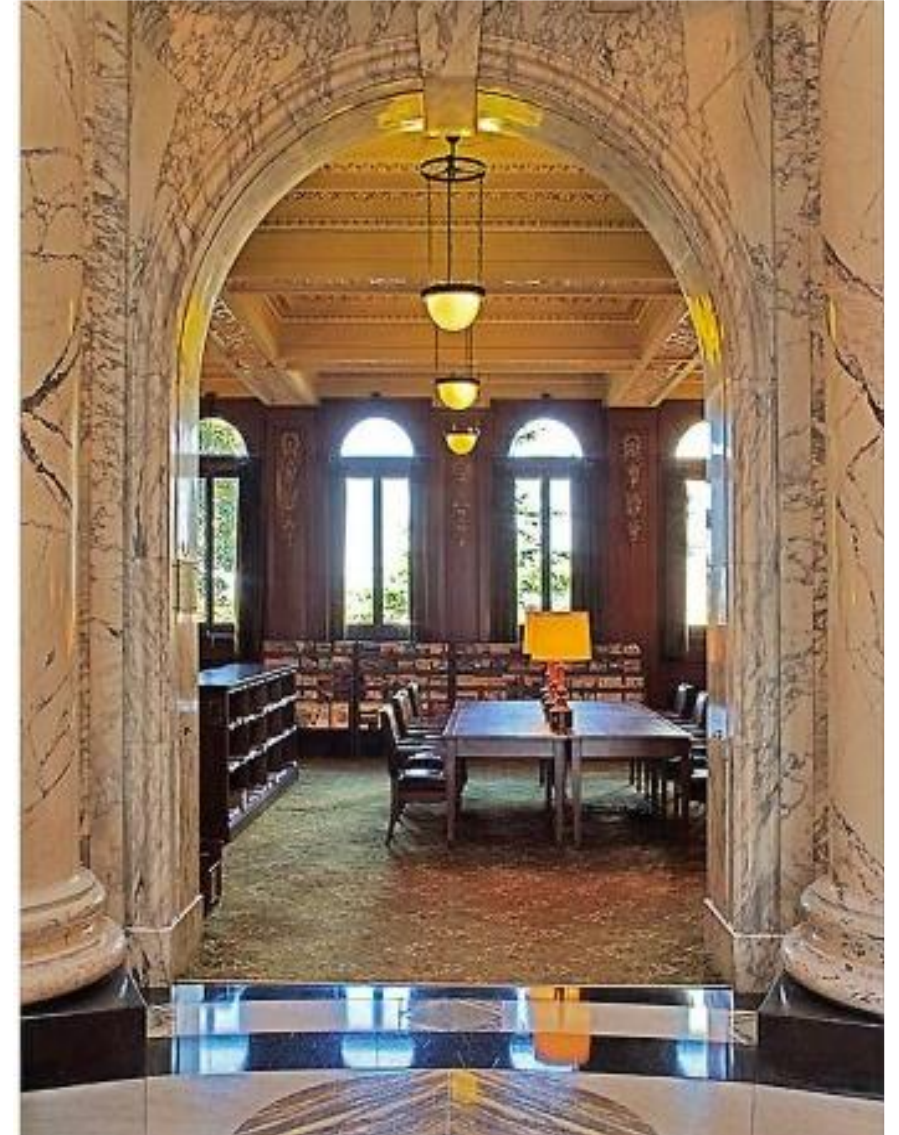
- Acquire, preserve, and provide access to the documentary history of BC's Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

## Holdings:

- MLA Papers Archives
- Alan J. Hodgson fonds

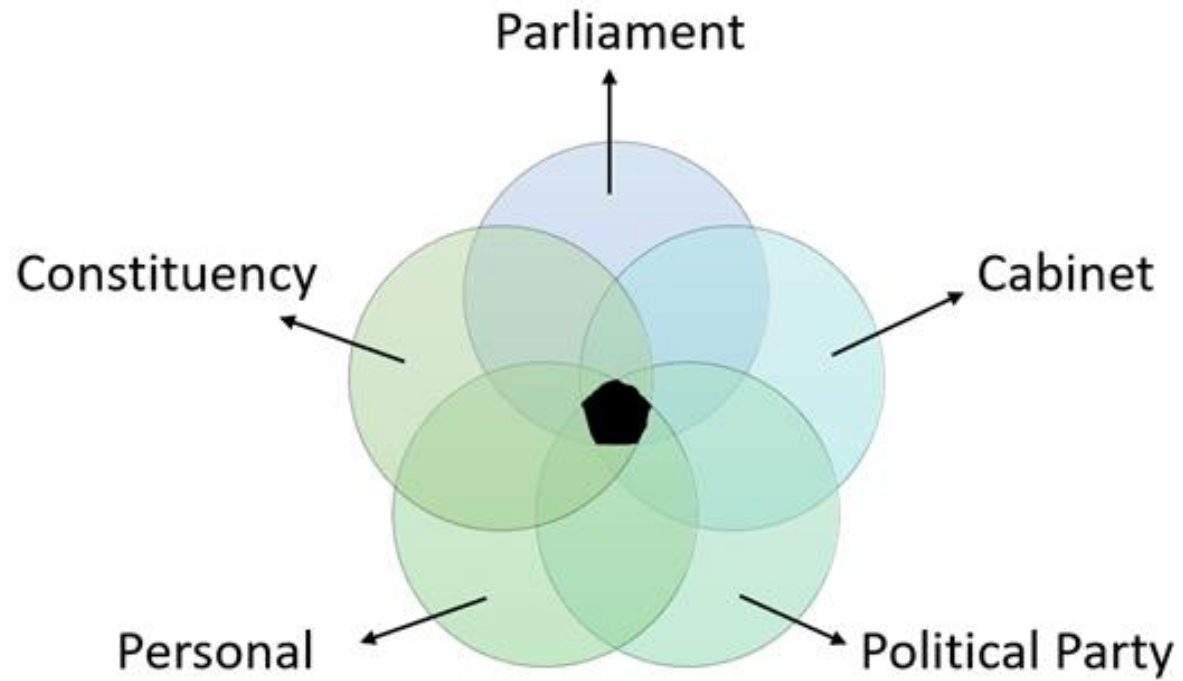
## Significance:

- MLAs have multiple and overlapping roles and responsibilities
- MLAs work in multiple independent legal entities and their records are challenging to track



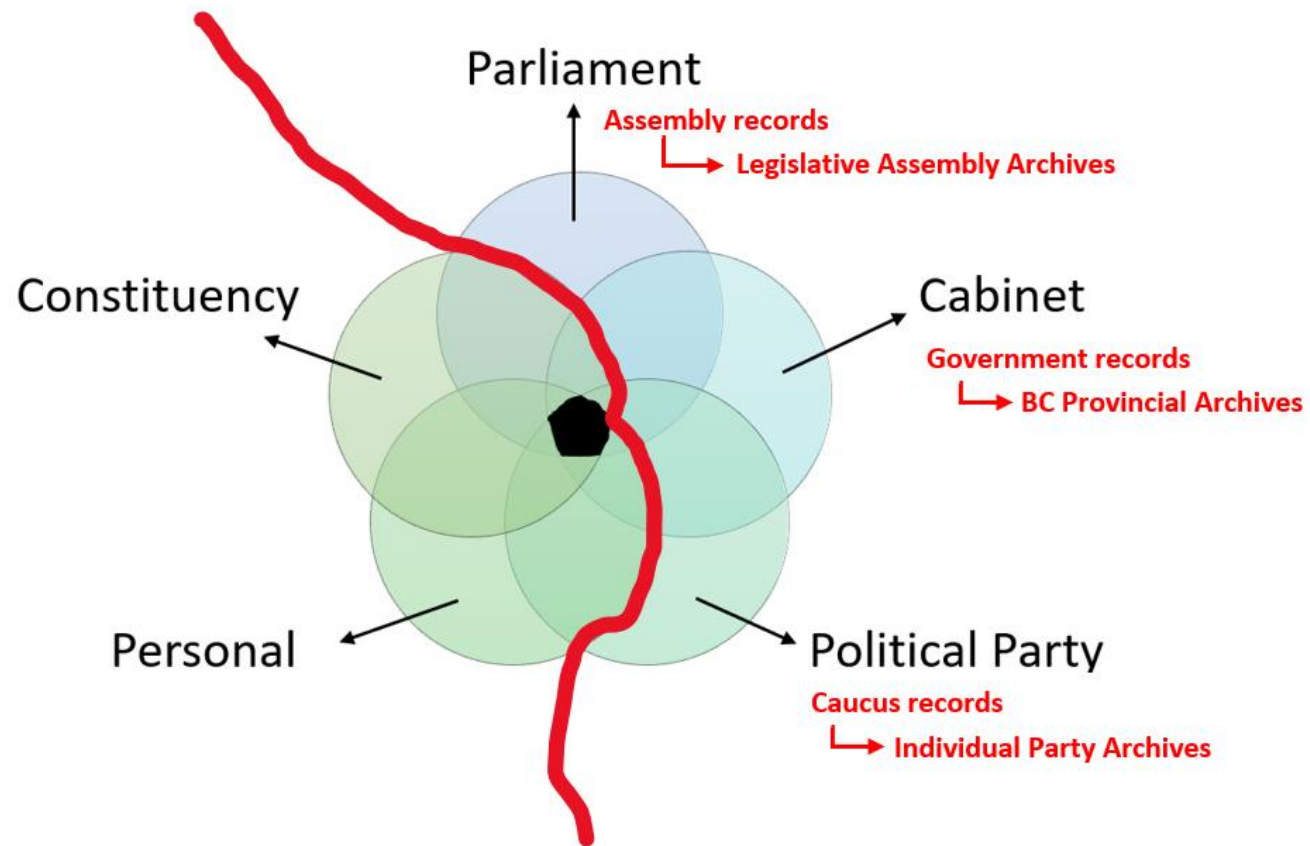
Reading Room, Legislative Library of BC

# MLAs' Roles and Responsibilities



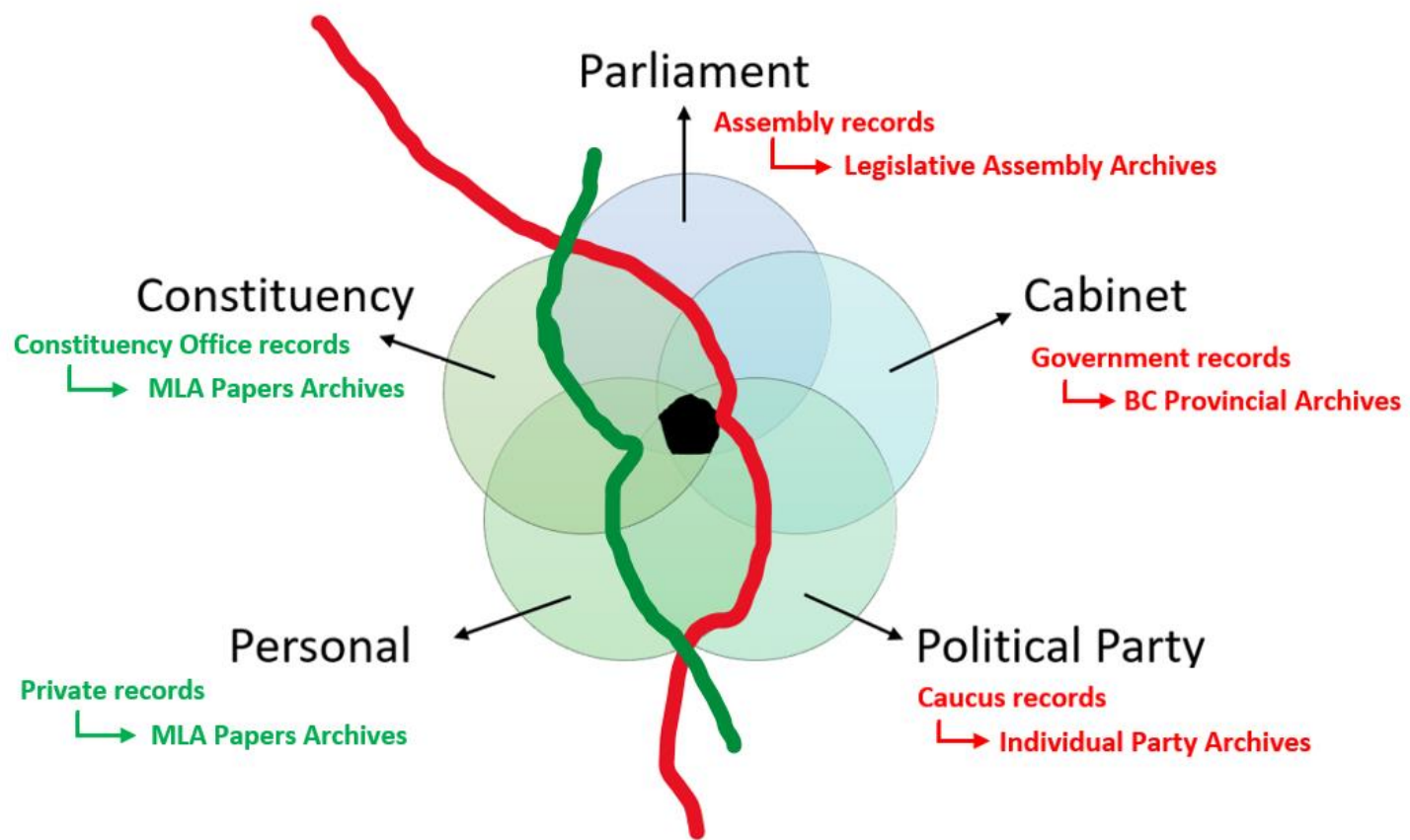
Legislative Chamber, British Columbia

# Tracing MLAs' Records



Legislative Chamber, British Columbia

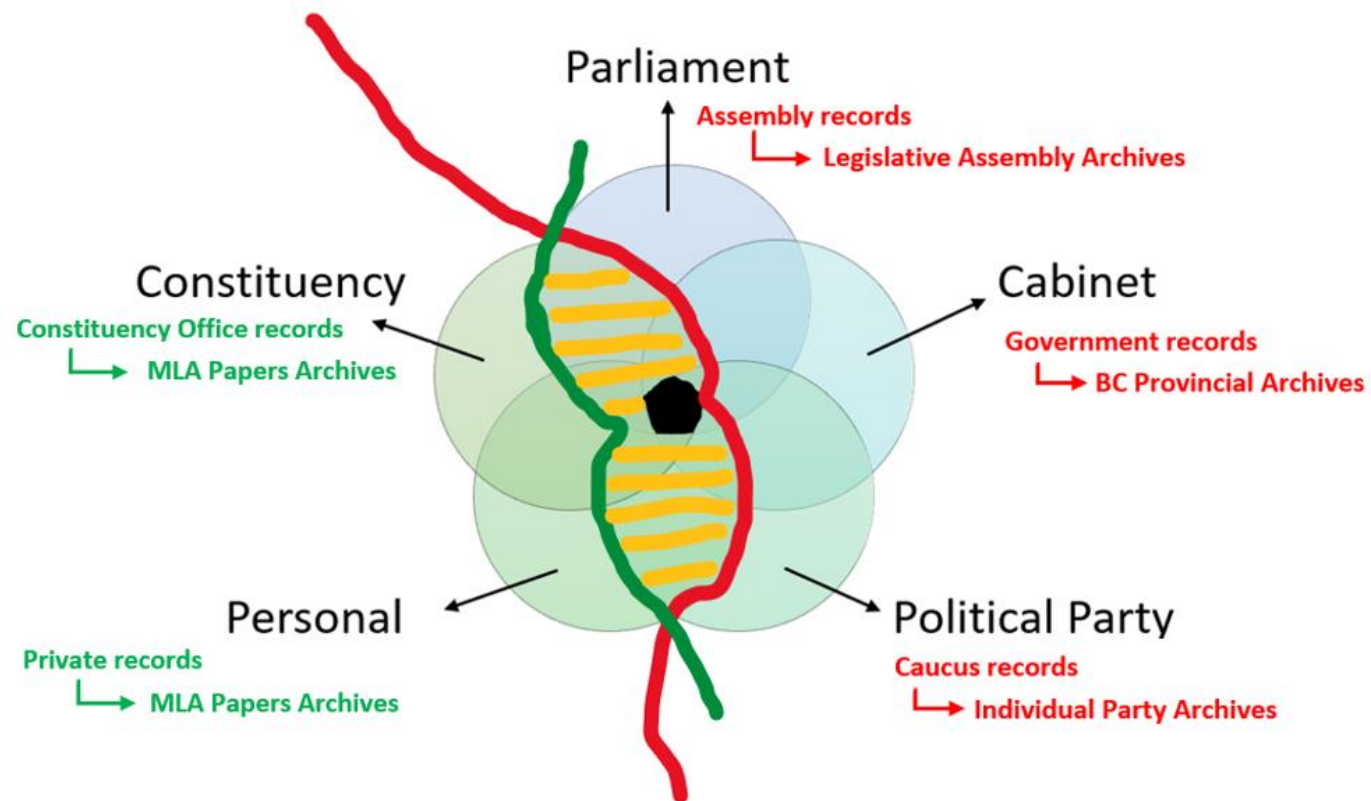
# Tracing MLAs' Records



Legislative Chamber, British Columbia



# Tracing MLAs' Records



Legislative Chamber, British Columbia

# MLA Papers Archives – Records

## Constituency records

- Meetings documentation
- Correspondence
- Speeches and position papers
- Issue / subject files
- Casework files
- Publicity materials
- Photographs, recordings, etc.

## Personal papers

- Personal diaries
- General correspondence
- Biographical information
- Advocacy and community engagement records
- Manuscripts and research interests
- Photographs, recordings, etc.

## We DON'T acquire:

- Constituency financial records
- Ministerial and Cabinet records
- Caucus records



# MLA Papers Archives – Acquisition

## Strategy:

- Target different MLA groups
- Sign a Transfer Agreement
- Store records untouched for five years
- After five years - archival work begins

## Challenges:

- Reaching out to former MLAs
- Elections - early and unexpected
- Nature of the records - may include extensive personal, confidential, and sensitive information
- Pandemic related work environment and operational challenging



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# MLA Papers Archives - Quick Wins

## Building Awareness

- Targeted publications in internal and external newsletters
- Speaking in professional forums
- Records Management advice to constituency office staff
- Exhibits and series of articles showcasing the archival collection

## Alan J. Hodgson fonds

- Launching a pilot project
- Promoting the archival collection
- Disseminating knowledge about the Parliament Buildings, their historical restoration, architectural features, and more



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# MLA Papers Archives – Next Steps

- Developing policies and guidelines
- Developing research tools & finding aids
- Providing access to the collection
- Designing outreach & archives awareness activities
- Promoting stakeholders' engagement & relationships



# Questions

**Thank You!**

[suher.zaher-mazawi@leg.bc.ca](mailto:suher.zaher-mazawi@leg.bc.ca)



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