

# B.C. Hansard Services

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
*of* BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Overview

- History of Hansard
- Recording the debates
- Editing and “substantially verbatim”
- Digital-first publishing
- Search and the Hansard Index
- Integration with the broadcast



# History of Hansard

King Edward I in Parliament



# History of Hansard — Sir John A. Macdonald, 1881

“As a matter of history, it is of the very greatest importance that the remarks of every hon. member, who has a responsibility as the representative of the people should, if we can afford it — and we can afford it — be as fully recorded in the official report as those of a leader. I hope we shall not commit such a great mistake, I hope we shall not make such a relapse into barbarism as to throw over the only means by which after generations shall be able to learn what were the subjects of interest engaging our attention, what was the style of speaking and the style of thought, and what were the moving impulses of the people and their representatives in Parliament.”



# History of Hansard — UK House of Commons, 1907

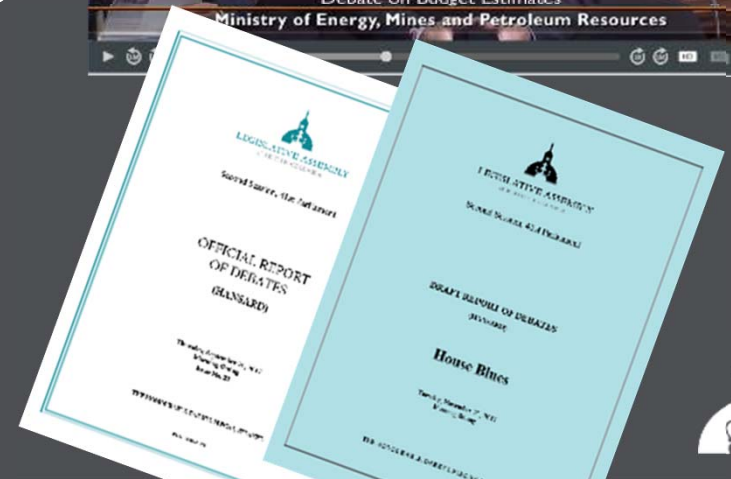


“...though not strictly verbatim, is substantially the verbatim report with repetitions and redundancies omitted and with obvious mistakes corrected, but which, on the other hand, leaves out nothing that adds to the meaning of the speech or illustrates the argument.”



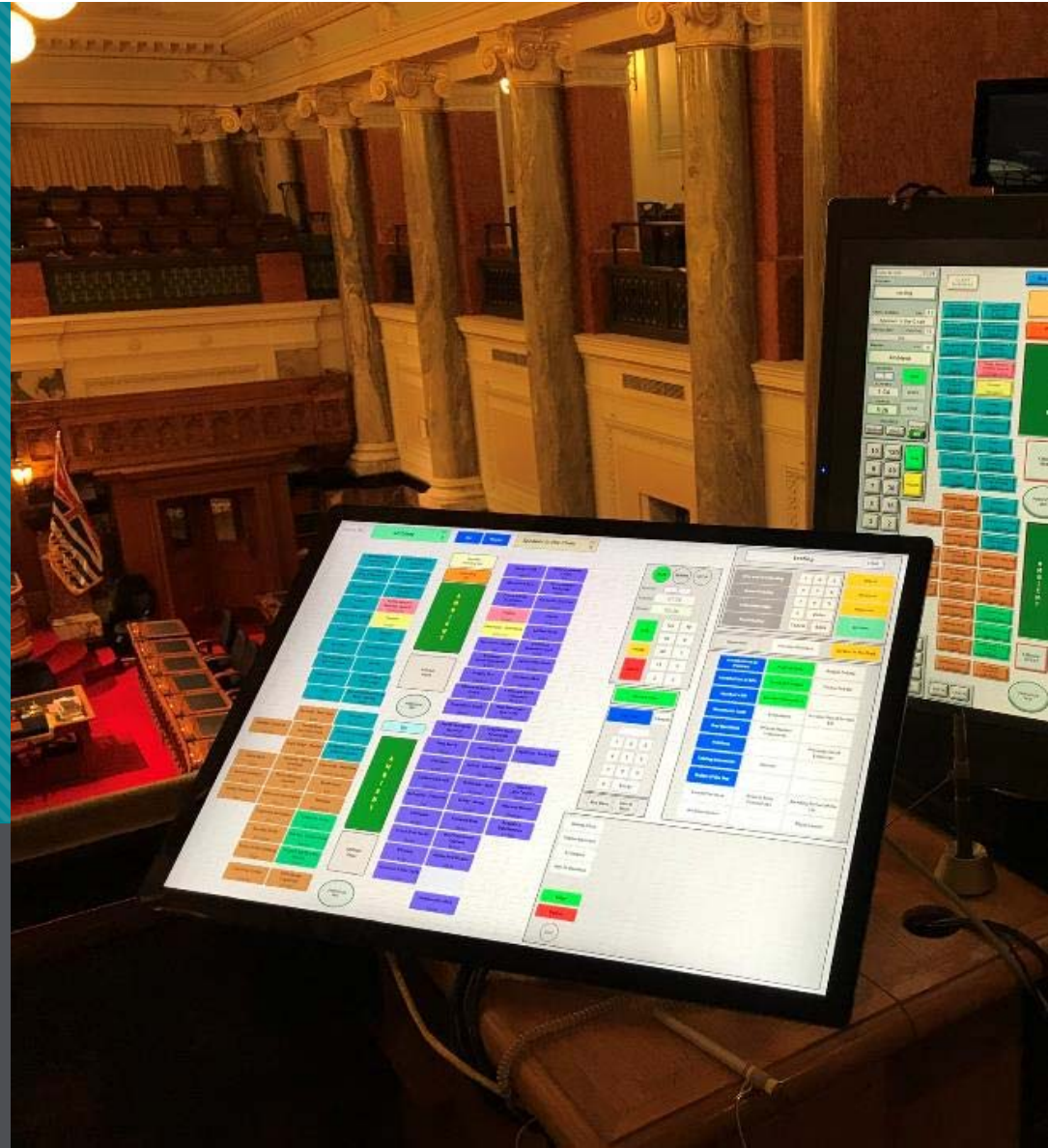
# What is Hansard in British Columbia?

- *Official Report of Debates*
- Substantially verbatim transcription of Chamber proceedings and parliamentary committee meetings
- Indexes of transcripts
- Broadcasts, live streams and archive video



# Recording the debates

The console operator's tablet



# Recording the debates

A member's desk and microphone





# Editorial Style and “Substantially Verbatim”

- What is “substantially verbatim” in B.C.?
  - Minimal intervention
  - Editing lightly for meaning/readability
  - Preserving the intention of the member's speech
- Common editorial challenges
- Indigenous and non-English speech



# Digital-First Publishing

- Where we were, 2008
  - Daily printings and bound volumes published by Queen's Printer
  - Few daily subscribers and very few bound volume subscribers
  - Many online readers and viewers



# Digital-First Publishing

- Where we are now
  - Streamlined publishing workflow
  - XML-based workflow for easier reuse and single-source publishing
  - Enhanced, aligned HTML for general use
  - Digitally certified, archival quality PDFs



# The Hansard Index



- Hansard Indexes
- Full-text search and Indexes
- Nature of political debates transcripts
- Indexes provide multiple access points
- Indexes support information discovery



# Statutory Interpretation — the Modern Principle



“Today there is only one principle or approach, namely, the words of an Act are to be read in their entire context and in their grammatical and ordinary sense harmoniously with the scheme of the Act, the object of the Act, and the **intention of Parliament.**”

— Elmer Driedger , *The Construction of Statutes.*



# Integration with the Broadcast

- Alignment with the HTML
- Searchable video
- Contents navigation
- Closer comparison with the text leads to a more verbatim transcript



# Thank you

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# Questions?



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