



## Government House Technical Works Update

03 October 2019

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### Background:

In 2016, Government House Management, including the Government House Foundation, commenced discussions with the provincial Ministries of Finance and Citizen's Services with the view of addressing deferred maintenance and physical upgrade needs to the facilities.

It was agreed that key health and safety issues and matters of inclusivity would take priority.

The first major project that this partnership undertook in 2017 was the design and installation of an accessible ramp in the front of the building, and accessibility upgrades to washrooms.

Following the success of this initial project, the Ministry of Citizen's Services, with support from the Ministry of Finance and Government House Foundation, have developed a prioritised five-year capital plan to address significant issues and to update Government House facilities.

### Completed Projects:

- In 2018, Citizen's Services Real Property Division concluded a major maintenance upgrade to Government House. This work included a roof replacement on the main building, primary flag pole replacement, the refurbishment of the portico's roof and repair of nine chimneys.
- Also in 2018, the Ministry of Citizen's Service's Real Property Division, in collaboration with Government House, undertook a major renovation of the exterior facade of the rear of the main building. This included upgrades to the windows, gutters, paint and doors of the house. It is worth mentioning that part of the project included a suitability review of all proposed products that were to be used in the works, to ensure compliance with the existing appearance of Government House.
- Furthermore, over the past year, Real Property Division has completed the design of four large projects which will be implemented over the next three years. These projects will provide significant improvements to the facility, and include specifications for a new mechanical, heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, along with the installation of a new generator for emergency preparedness, a new fire protection system, and an improved security system for the house.



- These phased upgrades will ensure that Government House is more sustainable for years to come. We anticipate the upgrades to provide an improved environment for the over 150 significant events that are held each year at the Ceremonial Home of all British Columbians.

Projects to be implemented in 2019/20:

- This year the house will be under significant renovations with the installation of a new fire protection system and a replacement emergency generator. It is anticipated that this bundled project will require nine months to complete and will ultimately provide full fire protection of the asset. This investment provides assures health and safety matters of patrons and residents are addressed, and that Government House will be a pillar in the community for many years to come.
- As mentioned, the house will also undergo a security upgrade to help further ensure the safety of the Lieutenant Governor, staff, patrons, and the many dignitaries that visit the residence. This will not limit the public access to the grounds in any way or change the esthetics of the house.
- The grounds will also be receiving a new look in as much as the rose arbour which has existed for many years at the entrance of the Victorian Rose Garden and has been a feature tourist attraction for the grounds, will be replaced. The new rose arbour and roses will be constructed and ready for October 2019. Although somewhat smaller in scope, this project has been a successful experiment in public-private-partnership. Funding has come from several private and other sources and has been managed by Citizen's Services.

The Lieutenant Governor and Government House management are very grateful to the Ministry of Citizen's Services, the Provincial Ministry of Finance, the Government House Foundation, the Friends of Government House Gardens Society, and other local partners for their contributions to the ongoing upgrades taking place on the property. We are also grateful to our neighbors, visitors, volunteers and other stakeholders who so graciously support us as well.

Respectfully,

Jerymy Brownridge  
Private Secretary and Executive Director