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TÍTULO:

(Re)Building Behaviour: How the B.C. Chamber Influences Politics, and How B.C. MLAs Want to Change It

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RESUMEN:

An opportunity to consider parliamentary (re)design does not come about often, but a global pandemic and an upcoming review of electoral boundaries have presented just such a situation in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. In this article, the authors use a survey of B.C.'s MLAs and interviews with MLAs representing each party in the Assembly to consider whether parliamentarians favour change in the Chamber. The authors ask: if new seats must be added and the Chamber rearranged as a result, would Members of B.C.'s Legislative Assembly be happy to adopt benches, or would they rather find a way to maintain individual desks and chairs? Thinking bigger, is there any desire to incorporate a circular seating plan, randomized seating, or ongoing virtual attendance? What sort of impact would these design changes have on political culture and behaviour in British Columbia? The authors conclude that the current seating arrangement (opposing desks situated two sword-lengths apart) was created at a time when the make-up of legislators was considerably different than it is today and that it may be time to consider whether a modern design would better serve parliamentarians and British Columbians. *

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