

# LEGISLATIVE SYZYGY

Decumbiture of an Ailing Province





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# LEGISLATIVE SYZYGY: DECUMBITURE OF AN AILING PROVINCE

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*"I don't believe in astrology; I'm a Sagittarius and we're skeptical."*

*- Arthur C. Clarke*

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## ABSTRACT

Last year, we released a report that analysed the star signs for MLAs in the BC Legislature for whom birthdays were available (n=59). The report made a number of headline-grabbing conclusions and predictions through the analysis of MLA star, ascendant, and moon signs.

In this report, we revisit those predictions and find we had a near impeccable accuracy of 98.2%. This unrivaled success in political prognostication leads to the obvious conclusion that our previous recommendations are more imperative than ever: that the BC Legislature hire an official astrologer, invest in other forms of divination, and that the birth dates for every MLA and political candidate be made publicly available.

Our work was motivated by the continued decision by the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia to open each sitting with "prayer and reflections." This approach is fraught with peril, particularly as no religion has subjected its claims to the level of pseudoscientific rigor as we have just applied to our prophecies. This begs the question of why members have thus far refused to explore other alternative supernatural means of promoting prosperity in the province – specifically astrology.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	3
Table of Contents	4
Introduction	5
Second Introduction	6
Methodology	9
MLA Star and Moon Signs	10
Analyzing our Analysis	15
BC NDP Party	15
BC Liberal Party	18
Cabinet	21
Predictions	21
Conclusion and Recommendations	23

## INTRODUCTION

Last year, the boffins hired by the BC Humanist Association (at cut rates no less), pooled their collective intellects and drafted one of the most significant pieces of quantitative analysis in BC politics in decades. The ground-breaking “Separation of religion and government in retrograde: The impact of star signs on BC Legislative politics” was the first study of its kind and made a number of breathtaking predictions.<sup>1</sup>

Since this apotelesm appraising BC politics, many things have changed.<sup>2</sup> Time has moved inexorably forward. Our planet has circumnavigated its’ star. Things have occurred: the price of groceries have gone up, fires have raged, floods inundated, and convoys annoyed. Our beautiful province is perturbed by plague, such that presciently, our previous paper is best presented as a prime example of a decumbiture.<sup>3</sup>

Our previous report really was ground-breaking, as never before had the implications of the position of celestial bodies on BC politics been considered. The public marvelled at the detailed analysis presented in this report. We received compliments on our colourful pie charts, our meticulous footnoting, and on the boldness of its predictions.<sup>4</sup> Since the release, the question on everyone’s lips has been “were they right?” Some folks have also been begging us to once again gaze heavenwards and scry the future of British Columbia.<sup>5</sup>

We are, if nothing else, responsive to the needs of our public, and so in this report, we offer an update on our previous report. Herein we will present new and even bolder predictions for BC politics based on the positions of heavenly bodies and the astrological signs of our exalted elected officials, and we will also review the success rate of our previous predictions, which we are pleased to announce approached 98.2%.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> It’s always a good sign when your first reference is to your own work. Slapp, R.H., & Schtick, A.L. (2021, April 1). “Separation of Religion and Government in Retrograde: The impact of star signs on BC Legislative politics.” BC Humanist Association. Available at [https://www.bchumanist.ca/separation\\_of\\_religion\\_and\\_government\\_in\\_retrograde](https://www.bchumanist.ca/separation_of_religion_and_government_in_retrograde) (retrieved March 27, 2022).

<sup>2</sup> If you were reading the footnotes hoping we would provide a definition of this word, think again. It’s not that kind of paper. Instead, we included this footnote to provide you with a foreshadowing of what is to follow. You are in for a ride. Buckle up.

<sup>3</sup> Ok, that last footnote was a little harsh, and we recognize that both ‘apotelesm’ and ‘decumbiture’ are not entirely quotidian words, so we will define them, but just this once. Apotelesm is simply the casting of a horoscope, while decumbiture refers to a horoscope that is made at the time when someone takes to their bed as a result of sickness.

<sup>4</sup> See for example correspondence with M.A. Slapp, author’s mother, April 2, 2021; and verbal comment made by L.I.L. Schtick, child of author, April 23, 2021.

<sup>5</sup> A few admirers even bought us drinks, what we refer to in the prognostication business as “ply to scry.” We will admit to being susceptible to this kind of flattery. Interac e-Transfers are also acceptable, or better yet, direct donations to the BC Humanist Association, which can be made here: <https://www.bchumanist.ca/donate>. Including shameless fundraising plugs in our footnotes is certainly not beneath us, and it is one of the best places to put such plugs, as only the most discerning and intellectual of readers, an erudite scholar such as yourself, will be sufficiently punctilious to dive into the footnotes (and then their pocket books).

<sup>6</sup> We feel like our success rate was closer to 100% (see below) as it’s pretty hard to be wrong when you have the stars as your guides, but a less round number seems more compelling. Like the potentially apocryphal story of the original surveyors of Mount Everest calculating they height of the mountain at 29,000 feet, but adding 2 feet to

## SECOND INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the second introduction. It's the section of the report that may have you asking: Why would we include two introductions in our report? Is it even possible to have two introductions? What ever could they be introducing such that it requires two full introductory sections? And other such questions.

As the saying goes, if one is good, two must be better. We offer this introduction for those who might have felt as though the first one was a tad too self-aggrandizing, self-referential, and self-absorbed. Much like the weaver bird, who builds a false entrance to its nests as a means of deterring predators,<sup>7</sup> so too have we incorporated a false introduction into our report.

The presence of a second introduction should be seen as a warning, screaming: Do not proceed, for this report will literally blow your mind. Reading this report will leave you forever changed. Thus, if you are happy with your current level of understanding of the universe, do not read any further.<sup>8</sup> Now would be the time to look at your phone, or check out some excellent television programing.<sup>9</sup> We hear you can kill a bunch of time on TikTok. However, those who appreciate the allure of secret esoteric knowledge may wish to proceed, though with caution.

While we have a myriad of motives, we principally set about conducting the circumstantiated research undergirding this report in order to save our province. Many people are unaware that daily sessions of the BC Legislature begin with prayer. In their 2019 *House of Prayers* study,<sup>10</sup> and in subsequent studies,<sup>11</sup> the BC Humanist Association examined and analyzed all of these prayers, and this analysis found that prayers delivered in the BC Legislature are disproportionately religious. However, this analysis also revealed a disquieting fact – the prayers delivered in the BC Legislature are “all over the place.”<sup>12</sup>

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make the number more believable. We would have gone with a 102% success rate if we thought we could get away with it.

<sup>7</sup> Collias, N.E., & Collias, E.C. (1962). "An experimental study of the mechanisms of nest building in a weaverbird." *The Auk*, 79(4), 568-595; Lingis, A. (2007). "Understanding Avian Intelligence". In *Knowing Animals*. Leiden, the Netherlands: Brill, 43-56.

<sup>8</sup> As with most admonitions of this kind, like 'Parental Advisory Labels' on music albums, the warning serves more to entice than to discourage. See Deflem, M. (2020). "Popular culture and social control: The moral panic on music labeling." *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 45, 2-24; and see Guion Peoples, D.T. (2017). "Nothing compares to you: Prince and the theory of optimal distinctiveness." *Journal of African American Studies*, 21, 443-460.

<sup>9</sup> We live in a golden age of television.

<sup>10</sup> Phelps Bondaroff, T.N., Bushfield, I., Marshall, K.E., Prasad, R., & Laurence, N. (2019, September). "House of prayers: An analysis of prayers in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, 2003-2019." *BC Humanist Association*, 1-138. Available at [https://www.bchumanist.ca/house\\_of\\_prayers\\_report](https://www.bchumanist.ca/house_of_prayers_report) (retrieved March 27, 2022).

<sup>11</sup> See Phelps Bondaroff, T.N., et al. (Forthcoming). "Change and prayers: An analysis of prayers in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, 2003-2020." In *Legislatures in Evolution: Changes, Challenges, Questions*. Canadian Study of Parliament Group. University of Ottawa Press.

<sup>12</sup> A Møøse once bit my sister... No realli! She was Karving her initials on the møøse with the sharpened end of an interspace tøøthbrush given her by Svenge - her brother-in-law - an Oslo dentist and star of many Norwegian møyies: "The Høt Hands of an Oslo Dentist", "Fillings of Passion", "The Huge Mølars of Horst Nordfink." And see also footnote 27.

The *House of Prayers* study found that 71.2% of all the prayers delivered in the BC Legislature were religious, and when the religion could be identified, the prayers were disproportionately identified as 'Christian' (see Table 6, reproduced from the *House of Prayers* report).<sup>13</sup> When presented with this alarming data, some might point out that the prayers delivered in the BC Legislature, though not accurately representing the demographics of British Columbians, at least pay lip service to a diverse province.

*Table 6: Sectarian prayers in the BC Legislature by religion*

Religion	Number of Prayers	% Sectarian Prayer	% All Prayers
Christian	175	93.1%	20.2%
First Nations	3	1.6%	0.4%
Jewish	4	2.1%	0.5%
Muslim	3	1.6%	0.3%
Gaian	1	0.5%	0.1%
Buddhist	1	0.5%	0.1%
Hindu	1	0.5%	0.1%

After all, a few token Muslim and Jewish prayers certainly help make the practice appear more inclusive. Or as one MLA noted, help the BC Legislature display “the spiritual diversity that exists among its members.”<sup>14</sup> Never mind the scads of non-believers that the practice excludes, or the myriad of believers from faith traditions not represented or under-represented, or the fact that a few token prayers provide cover for what is essentially a Christian practice.

We do not see efforts to make the prayers that open daily sessions of the BC Legislature more representative as a good thing. On the contrary, the more diverse and inclusive these prayers become, the more peril we invite upon our province. While some inclusive monotheists or pantheists might see praying to a multiplicity of gods as a way of playing the odds - splitting our soteriological bets - we see these meager efforts instead as a way of increasing our chances of incurring divine wrath.<sup>15</sup>

Many of the gods prayed to in the BC Legislature cannot coexist. Ecumenicism is insufficient to cover over the fact that all of these faith traditions cannot simultaneously be true. We can know this without even weighing in on the question of whether any of them are true. At best, one of these religions is correct.

There are serious risks to getting it wrong when it comes to prayer. The recent baptism scandal in the Catholic Church is illustrative.<sup>16</sup> In this case, the changing of a single word risked

<sup>13</sup> Phelps Bondaroff, et al. 2019:57.

<sup>14</sup> Yes, a real MLA said this, but if you want to find out who, you will have to consult Phelps Bondaroff, et al. 2019:71.

<sup>15</sup> Oglaf. (2016). “Assorted fruits of wrath.” Available at <https://www.oglaf.com/assorted-fruits/> (retrieved March 27, 2022).

<sup>16</sup> Luscombe, R. (2022, February 16). “Thousands of baptisms invalidated by priest’s use of one wrong word.” *The Guardian*. Available at <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/feb/16/arizona-baptisms-invalidated-priest-uses-one-wrong-word> (retrieved March 27, 2022).

invalidating all subsequent sacraments and potentially imperiling salvation of parishioners.<sup>17</sup> Imagine the potential consequences of getting more than one word wrong, or directing the prayer at the wrong god entirely? The tacit deference towards Christian prayer seems to indicate the overall predilection of our legislature, and we know from Christian scripture that the god of the Bible is a jealous god.<sup>18</sup> In this way, the well-meaning actions of our members of the legislative assembly (MLAs) could be aggravating an already truculent deity. And if this is not the correct god, every daily session of the BC Legislature that opens with a Christian prayer risks throwing (spiritual) sand into the eyes of this god.

In our previous report, we recommended that “the BC Legislature to expand its practices beyond the prayers and reflections that open each daily session and bring astrology into the centre of government.”<sup>19</sup> Given what has befallen our province in the intervening year,<sup>20</sup> and our subsequent analysis, we are put in the position of revising this recommendation.

Unlike prayer, we see astrology as a unifying practice. For thousands of years, humans have looked to the stars and the movement of planets to foretell the future. A long-held belief has been that the position of the stars and planets at the time of one’s birth influenced their chances at fortune, their prospects in romance, their career, and even their personalities. Various forms of astrology can be found in cultures around the world,<sup>21</sup> and the practice was part of humanity’s very first attempt at trying to understand the cosmos and our place within them.

Despite our species’ significant scientific progress, many continue to cling to irrational superstitions, antiquated forms of divination, and Bronze Age mythology. Heck, our newspapers still print daily horoscopes.<sup>22</sup> And why not? Astrology is eminently accessible and therefore more democratic than stodgy and elitist science.

How can a robust and verifiable epistemology like the scientific method,<sup>23</sup> stand up against the eminently egalitarian Google-based approach adopted by Facebook University educated experts?<sup>24</sup> After all, you can just Google your horoscope.

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<sup>17</sup> McDonald, J. (2022, February 17). “Catholic officials advise new baptisms after priest used incorrect word for decades.” *Los Angeles Times*. Available at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-02-17/catholic-officials-advise-new-baptisms-after-priests-mistake> (retrieved March 27, 2022).

<sup>18</sup> Exodus 20:5 – “You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me.”

<sup>19</sup> Slapp & Shtick 2021:5.

<sup>20</sup> See *inter alia* the news.

<sup>21</sup> Willis, R. & Curry, P. (2004). *Astrology, Science and Culture: Pulling down the moon*. New York, USA: Routledge. See also Pankenier, D.W. (2013). *Astrology and cosmology in early China: Conforming earth to heaven*. UK: Cambridge University Press; Campion, N. (2012). *Astrology and cosmology in the world’s religions*. New York, USA: NYU Press; Campion, N. (2000). “Babylonian astrology: Its origin and legacy in Europe.” *Astronomy Across Cultures*, 509-553; and Kasak, E. (2000). “Ancient astrology as a common root for science and pseudo science.” *Folklore*, 15.

<sup>22</sup> Last, E. (March 27, 2022). “Last word in astrology.” *Vancouver Sun*. Available at <https://vancouver.sun.com/advice/?amu=/last-word-in-astrology/2022/03/27> (retrieved March 27, 2022).

<sup>23</sup> Walton, D., & Zhang, N. (2012). “The epistemology of science evidence.” *Artificial Intelligence and Law*, 21, 173-219.

<sup>24</sup> Uncle Larry. (2022). “Random Facebook tirade VI.” Available at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) (retrieved pretty much anytime you want).

We therefore offer this follow-up report as a renewed plea to the BC Legislature to turn to astrology for insight and salvation. For it is only when the sun sets, that the stars come out. We hope that members of the public not detracted from our verbose introductions will find this report offers a refreshing perspective on BC Politics. We also hope that we will inspire polling firms to invest in better telescopes and perhaps rear some oracular chickens, political scientists to explore an overlooked and potentially prescient methodology, and politicians to tackle the issue of truly separating religion from government in BC. It's time to hitch our wagon to the stars!

## METHODOLOGY

We began by making coffee. Almost all research projects start this way, but the academics working on the projects fail to include this critical ingredient in the description of their methodologies. This makes them all liars, and also significantly reduces the replicability of their experiments. After all, how could we possibly replicate an experiment like X, or a study like Y, without knowing if the lead researcher on the project started their day with a cappuccino, an espresso, or a drip coffee? How could we ever trust a study conducted by tea drinkers?<sup>25</sup>

After acquiring coffee,<sup>26</sup> and contemplating our life choices, we were sufficiently prepared to crack open our nearly 10,000 word opus and review our predictions. This review was completed as rigorously and methodically as our original analysis, and you can simply refer to our methodology there for further details.<sup>27</sup>

Notably, in our original report, we provided a detailed analysis of the astrological composition of cabinet. However, Premier Horgan has since shuffled his cabinet, as if he didn't care how much work it would make for our research team.<sup>28</sup> In order to maintain expository lucidity, we opted to

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<sup>25</sup> This by no means should be considered an attack on our colleagues who engage in tasseomancy, some of our best friends are tasseographers or tasseomancers if you prefer.

<sup>26</sup> R.H. Slapp, prefers a decaf Pike Place pour over, Grande in a Venti cup, with a single shot espresso, 2 pumps vanilla, 2 pumps dark caramel, 2 Splenda, a splash of coconut milk, a splash soy milk, vanilla sweet cream cold foam, with a caramel drizzle, caramel crunch topping, and cinnamon. While A.L. Schtick drinks their coffee black and gritty, like their disposition (when you've stared into the void long enough, you prefer your coffee to serve as a reminder of your ruminations). Incidentally, both of the authors of this report support, and are in solidarity with, organizing Starbucks workers. While many of these footnotes are meant to be comical, the right of workers to organize is no joke. In these days of precarious employment, rising inequality, pandemic upheavals, and more, unions are more important than ever. Learn more about recent efforts in Held, L. (2022, March 21). "What a surge in union organizing means for food and farm workers." *Eater*. Available at <https://www.eater.com/22989300/unions-food-farming-industries-organizing-momentum-starbucks-unionizing> (retrieved March 27, 2022); and see Sedacca, M. (2021, December 9). "Starbucks workers vote to unionize in Buffalo." *The Counter*. Available at <https://thecounter.org/starbucks-workers-vote-unionize-buffalo-new-york-labor/> (retrieved March 27, 2022); and never cross a picket line.

<sup>27</sup> We apologise for footnote 12. Those responsible have been sacked. Mynd you, m00se bites Kan be pretti nasti.

<sup>28</sup> Okay, it was barely a shuffle. Josie Osborne was appointed to the new Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship (or as we prefer to call it LandWARS) and Nathan Cullen was promoted to Minister of Municipal Affairs.

drop this level of analysis from this report, though we will still evaluate the accuracy of the predictions we made from our initial analysis using the 2020/2021 cabinet.<sup>29</sup>

Finally, it is noteworthy that former BC Liberal leader Andrew Wilkinson stepped down from his seat in Vancouver-Quilchena in February 2022. While this will give the party's new leader Kevin Falcon a chance to win a seat in the BC Legislature, this represents a yet-to-be determined shift in the BC Liberal caucus,<sup>30</sup> the change did not affect our analysis, as both men are publicly coy about their birthdays, and as such, we were unable to send them birthday cards or determine their star signs and therefor include them in our analysis.<sup>31</sup>

## MLA Star and Moon Signs

Here we simply repeat the findings of our previous report for your ease. Table 1 shows the star and moon signs for all the BC MLAs for whom birth dates were available. Table 2 tabulates the total number of MLAs under each sign. As we were not privy to the exact time of birth of each MLA, we cannot provide their ascendant sign. Overall, we found 14% of all MLAs had their star signs in Leo (see Diagram 2). The next most represented star signs were Taurus and Aquarius, with 12% of BC MLAs being born under these signs. Sagittarius and Aries were the least represented, with only 4% all MLAs being born under these star signs. Diagram 2 shows MLAs moon signs.

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<sup>29</sup> This is a fancy way of saying that we didn't want to re-make our graphs. We thought it sounded sufficiently convincing to fool anyone who wasn't smart enough to read the footnotes. That is clearly not you. Look at you, checking citations like a pro. Also, the report was getting pretty long, at over 10,000 words, there is something to be said about taking a joke too far.

<sup>30</sup> If our in-house onomancer is to be believed, Mr. Falcon will help the BC Liberals take flight, or something about flight. Flight was mentioned. Could be voters? We aren't sure. Alas, another instance of ply and scry gone awry.

<sup>31</sup> Kev, the birthday card is addressed and ready, just let us know when's your special day. Zazzle. (n.d.). "Peregrine falcon photo funny birthday card." Available at [https://www.zazzle.ca/peregrine\\_falcon\\_photo\\_funny\\_birthday\\_card-137981753659944871](https://www.zazzle.ca/peregrine_falcon_photo_funny_birthday_card-137981753659944871) (retrieved March 27, 2022).

**Table 1:** Star and moon signs for BC MLAs with party affiliation<sup>32</sup>

MLA	Party	Star Sign	Moon Sign
Pam Alexis	NDP Party	Aries	Leo
Brittney Anderson	NDP Party	Gemini	Aries
Michele Babchuk	NDP Party	Virgo	Pisces
Harry Bains	NDP Party	Pisces	Leo
Bruce Banman	Liberal Party	Aquarius	Scorpio
Lisa Beare	NDP Party	Leo	Aquarius
Mike Bernier	Liberal Party	Aquarius	Virgo
Shirley Bond	Liberal Party	Scorpio	Cancer
Stephanie Cadieux	Liberal Party	Scorpio	Taurus
Spencer Chandra Hebert	NDP Party	Taurus	Libra
Katrina Chen	NDP Party	Cancer	Virgo
George Chow	NDP Party	Capricorn	Gemini
Katrine Conroy	NDP Party	Scorpio	Scorpio
Nathan Cullen	NDP Party	Cancer	Leo
Bob D'Eith	NDP Party	Libra	Taurus
Dan Davies	Liberal Party	Aquarius	Aquarius
Mitzi Dean	NDP Party	Capricorn	Leo
Adrian Dix	NDP Party	Taurus	Leo
Fin Donnelly	NDP Party	Gemini	Virgo
David Eby	NDP Party	Gemini	Leo
Mable Elmore	NDP Party	Pisces	Aquarius
Mike Farnworth	NDP Party	Leo	Pisces
Rob Fleming	NDP Party	Scorpio	Virgo
Sonia Furstenau	Green Party	Gemini	Sagittarius
Kelly Greene	NDP Party	Capricorn	Virgo
Trevor Halford	Liberal Party	Taurus	Aquarius
John Horgan	NDP Party	Leo	Virgo
Ravi Kahlon	NDP Party	Taurus	Capricorn
Anne Kang	NDP Party	Taurus	Leo

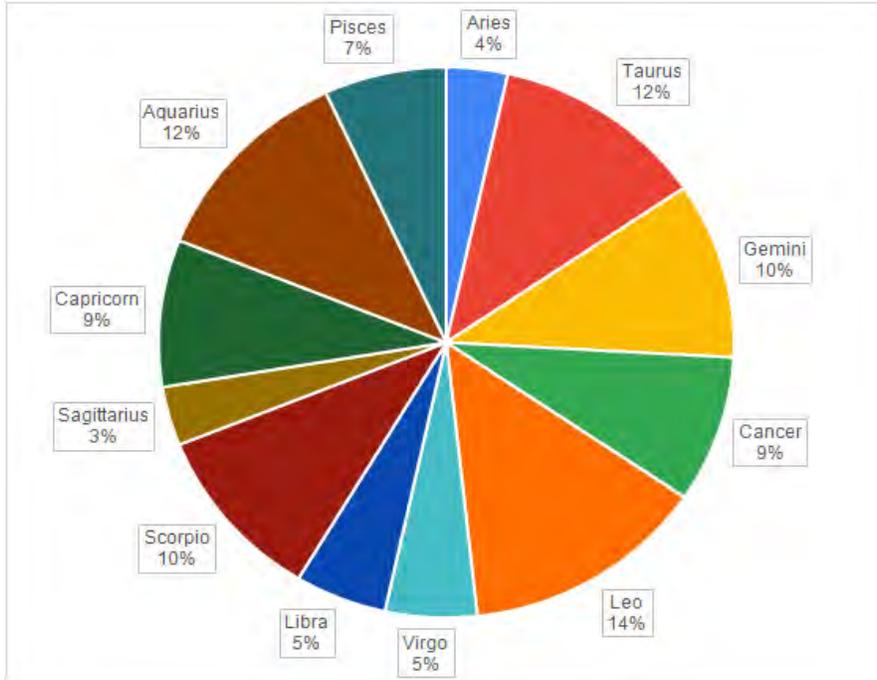
<sup>32</sup> For those who might be tempted to use this list for logomancy, arithmancy, or even Shufflemancy, please note that this list is presented in alphabetical order, so please don't read anything into the order in which the MLA names are presented.

Greg Kylo	Liberal Party	Aries	Aquarius
Norm Letnick	Liberal Party	Capricorn	Aquarius
Grace Lore	NDP Party	Virgo	Aquarius
Bowinn Ma	NDP Party	Leo	Scorpio
Melanie Mark	NDP Party	Libra	Leo
Andrew Mercier	NDP Party	Cancer	Aquarius
Peter Milobar	Liberal Party	Aquarius	Gemini
Mike Morris	Liberal Party	Cancer	Capricorn
Coralee Oakes	Liberal Party	Taurus	Aquarius
Adam Olsen	Green Party	Capricorn	Taurus
Josie Osborne	NDP Party	Sagittarius	Taurus
Ian Paton	Liberal Party	Leo	Scorpio
Lana Popham	NDP Party	Scorpio	Pisces
Murray Rankin	NDP Party	Aquarius	Taurus
Jennifer Rice	NDP Party	Virgo	Sagittarius
Selina Robinson	NDP Party	Pisces	Sagittarius
Ellis Ross	Liberal Party	Gemini	Capricorn
Janet Routledge	NDP Party	Sagittarius	Leo
Doug Routley	NDP Party	Taurus	Pisces
Roly Russell	NDP Party	Libra	Taurus
John Rustad	Liberal Party	Leo	Leo
Nicholas Simons	NDP Party	Scorpio	Libra
Jinny Sims	NDP Party	Gemini	Sagittarius
Aman Singh	NDP Party	Cancer	Leo
Rachna Singh	NDP Party	Leo	Pisces
Ben Stewart	Liberal Party	Leo	Libra
Todd Stone	Liberal Party	Aquarius	Capricorn
Jackie Tegart	Liberal Party	Aquarius	Capricorn
Adam Walker	NDP Party	Pisces	Gemini

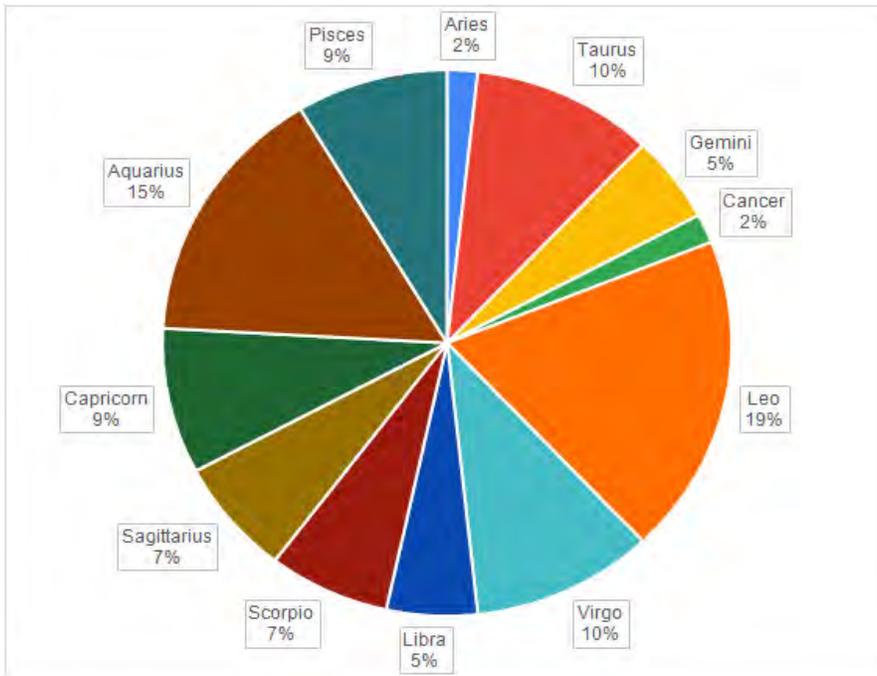
**Table 2:** Star and moon signs for MLAs in BC Legislature, total counts

Symbol	Star Sign		Moon Sign	
♈	Aries	2	Aries	1
♉	Taurus	7	Taurus	6
♊	Gemini	6	Gemini	3
♋	Cancer	5	Cancer	1
♌	Leo	8	Leo	11
♍	Virgo	3	Virgo	6
♎	Libra	3	Libra	3
♏	Scorpio	6	Scorpio	4
♐	Sagittarius	2	Sagittarius	4
♑	Capricorn	5	Capricorn	5
♒	Aquarius	7	Aquarius	9
♓	Pisces	4	Pisces	5

**Diagram 1: Star signs for MLAs in BC Legislature, proportions**



**Diagram 2: Moon signs for MLAs in BC Legislature, proportions<sup>33</sup>**



<sup>33</sup> If you stare at this pie chart for one minute, and then stare at a blank wall, an amazing illusion will occur! Do not, under any circumstances, try this with the previous chart (see Diagram 1). If you are foolish enough to make this mistake, please have the following incantation on hand: "Kee Oth Rama Pancake."

## ANALYZING OUR ANALYSIS

We now turn to build off our previous analyses of the two major party caucuses.

### BC NDP Party<sup>34</sup>

As previously noted, the BC NDP party has a relatively well-balanced caucus, most notably with respect to star signs. All signs are represented, ranging 2-13% (see Table 3 and Diagram 4).

We noted that the caucus had a dearth of Aries (only 2%). That 'deficiency' seems to have been to the government's benefit as we noted that an over-representation of Aries "could lead to tension and infighting within a caucus", which the party has seemingly avoided.

The rarity of Aquarians in the BC NDP party caucus is noteworthy and could explain something about the party's handling of this year's flooding, though we should remind readers that despite the aquatic association with Aquarius, that this in fact an air sign.<sup>35</sup> Conversely, representation from the three fire signs (Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius), is quite telling with respect to the government's handling of this past summer's wildfires. The BC NDP party's *CleanBC Roadmap to 2030*, has all the hallmarks of Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius energy.<sup>36</sup>

We previously surmised that the strong representation of Scorpios (10%) and Geminis (10%) would ensure the government was both hard-working and able to respond rapidly. Arguably, this is demonstrated by the 39 bills that have been passed into law since our last report was published.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> It's obviously more fun being in government than opposition so we will insist on referring to the New Democratic Party as the "NDP Party" throughout the report. If you are a party member and following proper convention rules, we advise you to show restraint when imbibing, maybe switch to kombucha after six shots.

<sup>35</sup> Elemental balance analysis was not properly conducted, instead we just went with what felt right here. As one of our spiritual advisers used to say before he ascended after a tragic accident, "always trust your gut over empirical evidence."

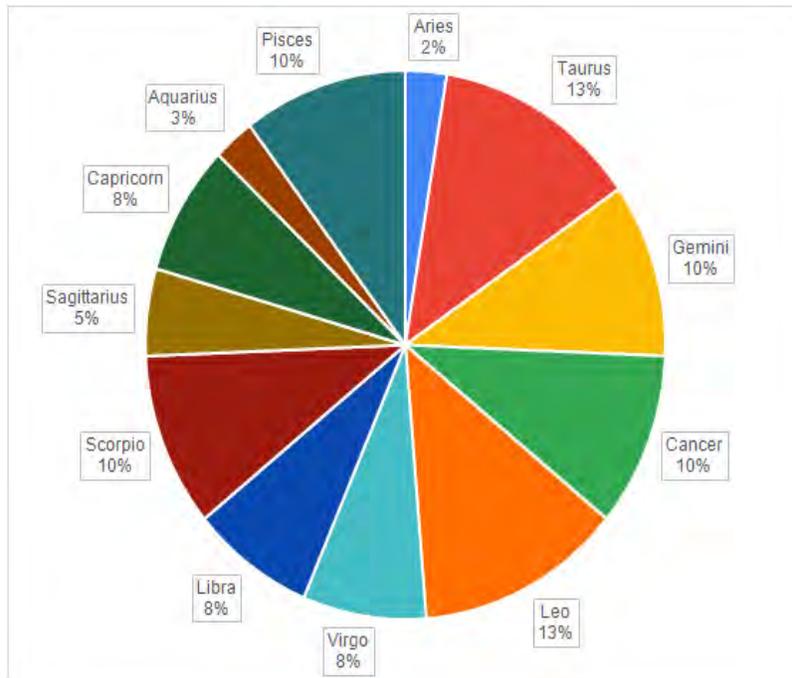
<sup>36</sup> See Government of BC. (2021, October 25). "B.C. launches stronger climate plan for a better future." Available at <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021ENV0065-002025> (retrieved via complicated process involving a DeLorean, March 10, 2009).

<sup>37</sup> In our first draft of this report, only 34 bills had been passed and this was fortuitously also footnote 34. Sensing this spiritual serendipity, the Lieutenant Governor, clearly in league with Reviewer 2, attempted to frustrate this cosmic confluence. On the afternoon before this report was published, the Lieutenant Governor proclaimed five more bills into law. Added to this, Reviewer 2 insisted we remove an entire section of the report deemed "too repetitive of your previous work." Because Humanists have a deep concern for the wellbeing of others, we will be conducting an apotropaic ritual after hitting publish in an effort to ward off the evil spirits that these two have clearly invited by tempting the fates in this manner.

**Table 3:** Star and moon signs for NDP Party MLAs in BC Legislature, total counts

Symbol	Star Sign		Moon Sign	
♈	Aries	1	Aries	1
♉	Taurus	5	Taurus	4
♊	Gemini	4	Gemini	2
♋	Cancer	4	Cancer	0
♌	Leo	5	Leo	10
♍	Virgo	3	Virgo	5
♎	Libra	3	Libra	2
♏	Scorpio	4	Scorpio	2
♐	Sagittarius	2	Sagittarius	3
♑	Capricorn	3	Capricorn	1
♒	Aquarius	1	Aquarius	4
♓	Pisces	4	Pisces	5

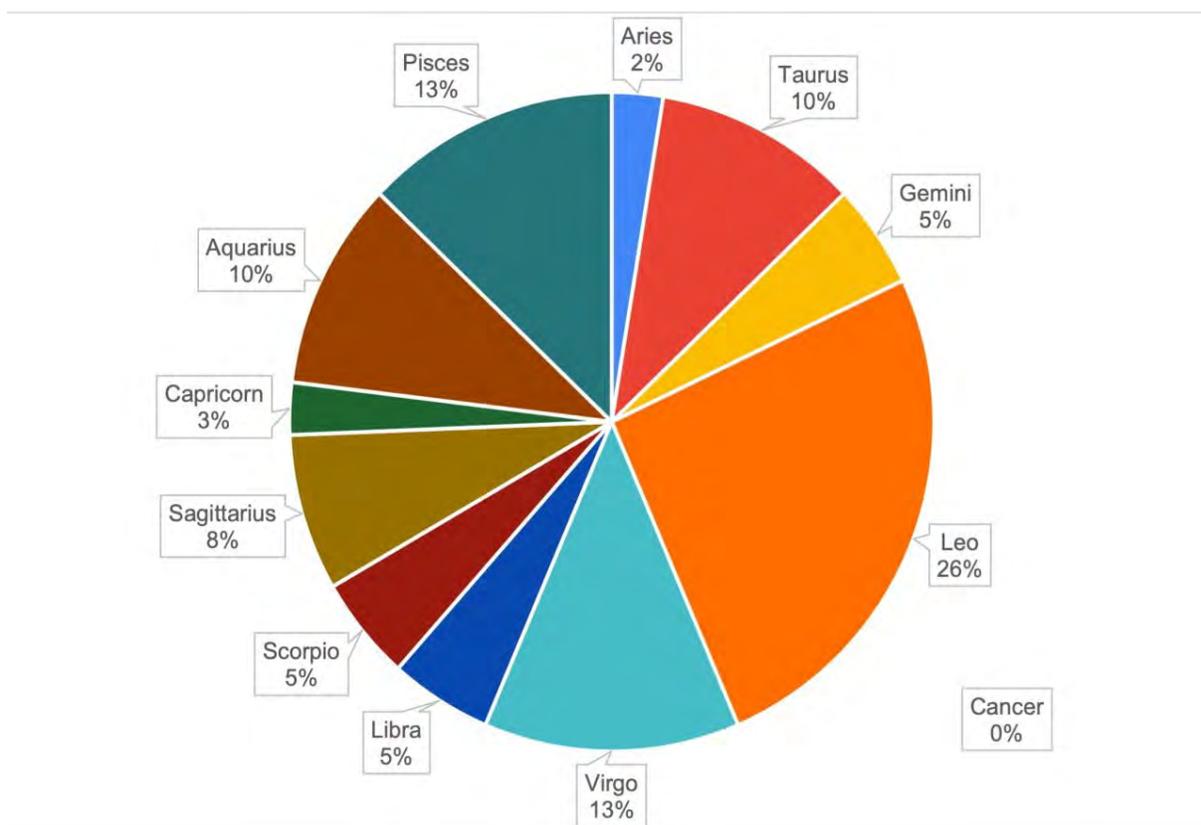
**Diagram 3:** NDP Party MLAs star signs, caucus proportion



Based on the likelihood of conflict between those with Cancer and Aries in their moon sign (both prominent in caucus), we confidently predicted some internal disagreements with the BC NDP Party caucus this past year. And we can confidently confirm this prediction, as we could see disagreement within the BC NDP Party around the handling of the Wet’suwet’en Crisis.<sup>38</sup> This was just the most public of the internal disagreements.<sup>39</sup>

The Leo-heavy BC NDP Party caucus could certainly benefit from the balance and stability of more Scorpio energy. Fortunately, the empathic nature of the Pisces contingent can help offset this to some extent. The BC NDP Party would do well to consider a candidate born under a Scorpio moon in the upcoming Vancouver-Quilchena by election.

**Diagram 4:** NDP Party MLAs moon signs, caucus proportion



<sup>38</sup> See for example Follett Hosgood, A. (2022, January 10). “BC NDP Party faces internal pressure to change course on the Wet’suwet’en Crisis.” *The Tyee*. Available at <https://thetyee.ca/News/2022/01/10/BC-NDP-Party-Faces-Internal-Pressure-Change-Course-Wetsuweten-Crisis/> (retrieved March 28, 2022); and see Woolf, M. (2021, December 8). “Trio of New Democrat MPs sign petition criticizing B.C. NDP Party government in Wet’suwet’en dispute.” *Global News*. Available at <https://globalnews.ca/news/8436086/NDP-Party-coastal-gaslink-wetsuweten/> (retrieved March 28, 2022).

<sup>39</sup> Unfortunately, we can’t divulge the nature of many of these disagreements as they were all told to us by staffers who’d had one too many drinks and we don’t want them to lose their jobs. Actually, we may have said too much now, sorry James and Mary. See US Social Security. (n.d.) “Top Names over the Last 100 Years.” Available at <https://www.ssa.gov/oact/babynames/decades/century.html> (retrieved March 30, 2022).

## BC Liberal Party

Our first note on the Liberal caucus was the overwhelming overrepresentation of Aquarius (35%). This many air elements in one caucus, coupled with the calm and sensitive nature of Aquarians, arguably explains the opposition's lackluster performance in Question Period.<sup>40</sup>

We previously argued the strong Leo energy of the Liberal caucus (17%), might help the party stand out in a crowd. This might explain the Liberals gain of 4 points in a recent poll over their performance in the previous election.<sup>41</sup>

We previously noted the BC Liberal caucus is without representation of Virgos, Libras, Sagittarians, or Pisces. We predicted that "without the strong financial sense of Virgos, the BC Liberals will be unlikely to mount strong opposition to upcoming provincial budget."<sup>42</sup> One need only look to the lackluster response to the budget from Kevin Falcon and Peter Milobar to demonstrate the exactitude of our prediction.<sup>43</sup> A note to all MLAs, emphasizing gas prices when talking about affordability is really missing the mark and is a classic Gemini move.

We also predicted more 'wacky times' for the BC Liberals, and while the selection of a new leader like Kevin Falcon promises to fulfill this prediction, the extent of wackiness, measured either qualitatively or quantitatively,<sup>44</sup> remains to be seen.

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<sup>40</sup> It was clearly astrology at play here and not the fact the opposition had an interim leader amidst a pandemic when sittings were frequently held in hybrid virtual formats.

<sup>41</sup> ResearchCo. (2022, February 18). "BC NDP Remains Ahead of BC Liberals in British Columbia." Available at <https://researchco.ca/2022/02/18/bcpoli-feb2022/> (retrieved March 30, 2022).

<sup>42</sup> Slapp & Schtick 2021:21.

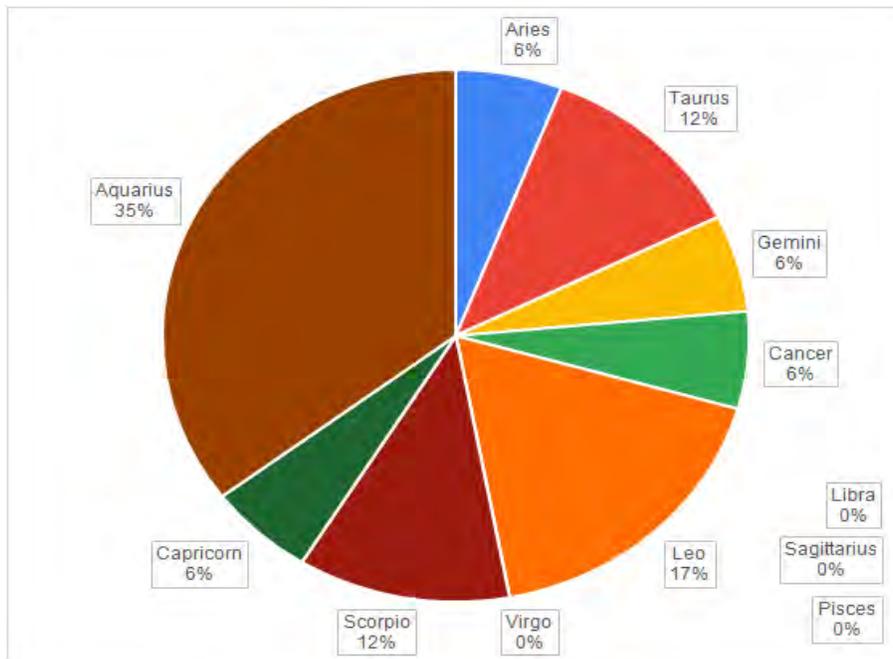
<sup>43</sup> See for example BC Liberal Caucus. (2022, February 22). "Press conference: Budget 2022 response – Kevin Falcon." Available at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=694437748379804> (retrieved March 28, 2022).

<sup>44</sup> Either using the quantitative '100-point Bennett Scale,' or a more qualitative approach.

**Table 4:** Star and moon signs for Liberal MLAs in BC Legislature, total counts

Symbol	Star Sign		Moon Sign	
♈	Aries	1	Aries	0
♉	Taurus	2	Taurus	1
♊	Gemini	1	Gemini	1
♋	Cancer	1	Cancer	1
♌	Leo	3	Leo	1
♍	Virgo	0	Virgo	1
♎	Libra	0	Libra	1
♏	Scorpio	2	Scorpio	2
♐	Sagittarius	0	Sagittarius	0
♑	Capricorn	1	Capricorn	4
♒	Aquarius	6	Aquarius	5
♓	Pisces	0	Pisces	0

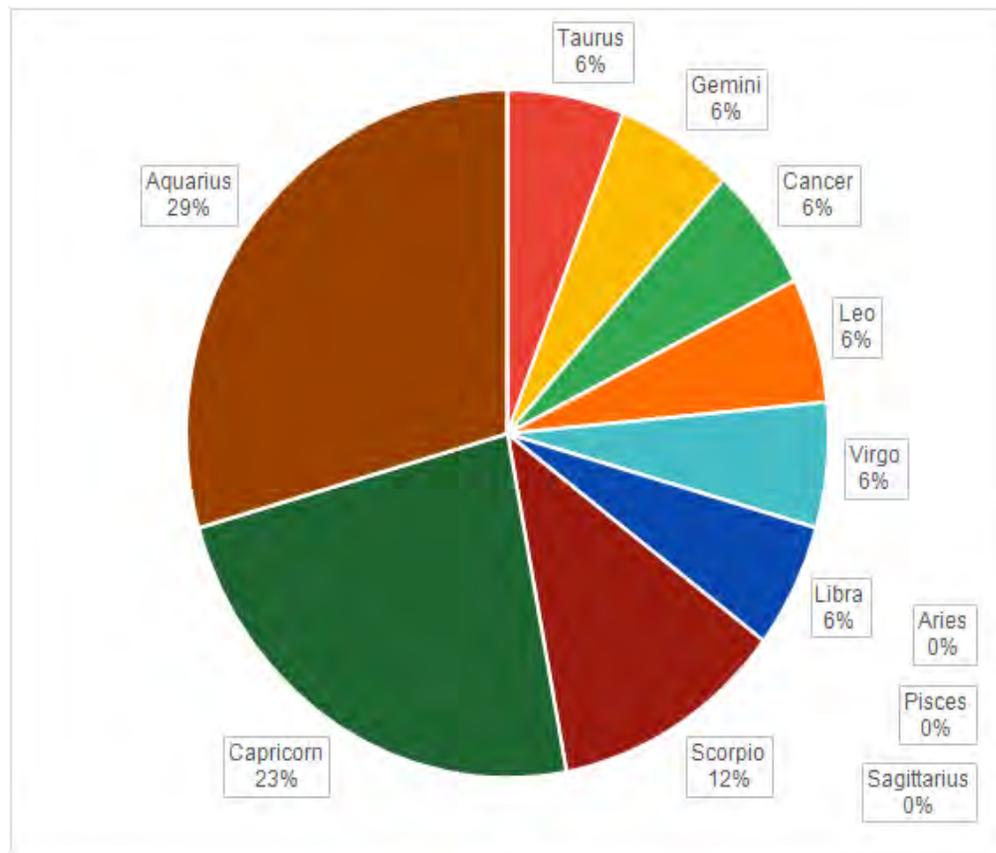
**Diagram 5:** Liberal MLAs star signs, caucus proportion



With respect to the distribution of moon signs in the Liberal caucus, we previously noted that the large presence of Aquarians (29%), “will need to be reigned in, lest we see factions emerge within the party.” In our previous report, we noted that “though floor crossing is unlikely, we would not be surprised if the BC Liberal caucus did not see at least one surprising upheaval this year!” We can smugly confirm the accuracy of this prediction, as the election of the party’s new leader is certainly causing quite an upheaval within the party, and he is promising “big and bold policies.”<sup>45</sup>

It is also noteworthy that Aquarius are known for their impatience, which explains a recent gaff concerning the quick release of a less-than-optimally edited video from Kevin Falcon. A video that led one BC journalist to ask “Who’s vetting Kevin Falcon’s sloppy and sexist videos?”<sup>46</sup> We may not know who was directly responsible for posting this video before it was fully baked, but we can guarantee you that they have Sagittarius, Aquarius, or Aries in their charts.

**Diagram 6:** Liberal MLAs moon signs, caucus proportion



<sup>45</sup> MacNaull, S. (2022, March 25). “Big, bold things to come from BC Liberal Party, says new leader.” *Kamloops BC Now*. Available at [https://www.kamloopsbcnow.com/watercooler/news/news/Provincial/Big\\_bold\\_things\\_to\\_come\\_from\\_BC\\_Liberal\\_Party\\_says\\_new\\_leader/](https://www.kamloopsbcnow.com/watercooler/news/news/Provincial/Big_bold_things_to_come_from_BC_Liberal_Party_says_new_leader/) (retrieved March 28, 2022).

<sup>46</sup> Wilcomes, D. (2022, March 22). “Drex: Who’s vetting Kevin Falcon’s sloppy and sexist videos?” *Daily Hive*. Available at <https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/kevin-falcon-videos-drex> (retrieved March 28, 2022).

## Cabinet

As we noted above, we opted not to update our analysis of the star charts of cabinet, given recent post-elections changes. Instead, here we will simply review the accuracy of our prognostications. Unfortunately, due to Cabinet confidence and solidarity,<sup>47</sup> we are unable to verify any of our predictions pertaining to debates and any potential internal squabbles within cabinet.<sup>48</sup> However, we certainly feel a though our predictions were correct, they were certainly adequately vague to apply in most circumstance.<sup>49</sup>

## PREDICTIONS

Our previous report was not only ground breaking for looking at BC politics through an astrological lens, but made a number of bold and astonishing predictions. As previously mentioned, our adorning public has been pestering us to elucidate as to their precision, bar none, or perhaps Barnum.<sup>50</sup> Some said our previous report was a blustery Gasconade, but in this section we demonstrate that our work was more than a rodomontade, and in fact rooted in verity, gleaned from the very stars themselves.

Virgos are not only hard-working and dutiful, but they are notable for their knowledge of handling money, and given the strong presence of Virgos in the BC Legislature, we predicted that “while there may be the odd incident, there will be no *major* financial scandals in the coming year.”<sup>51</sup> We feel vindicated by the last of major financial scandals over the past year. In fact, things seem to be going quite well. Whereas it has previously been described as “a financial dumpster fire,”<sup>52</sup>



<sup>47</sup> Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. (n.d.). “Cabinet Confidence and Solidarity.” Available at <https://www.leg.bc.ca/dyl/Pages/Cabinet-Confidence-and-Solidarity.aspx> (retrieved March 28, 2022).

<sup>48</sup> We’ve been shut out too many times while trying to file FOIs, so two can play at this game.

<sup>49</sup> See footnote 50.

<sup>50</sup> Join us on a quest into the void for the search of the deep well of mystic power. Available at <https://zoomquilt.org/> (retrieved March 27, 2022). If you are interested in learning more about Barnum statements, we suppose you could start with these sources, but don’t read them too closely. See Vohs, K.D. (2007). “Barnum effect.” *Britannica*. Available at <https://www.britannica.com/science/Barnum-Effect> (retrieved March 24, 2021); Ndukwu, D. (2019, May 22). “The Barnum Effect: Use flattery to instill belief (or why quizzes work).” *KyLeads*. Available at <https://www.kyleads.com/blog/barnum-effect/> (retrieved March 24, 2021); and see Productive Club. (n.d.). “Barnum Effect – why horoscopes seem relevant to you.” Available at <https://productiveclub.com/barnum-effect/> (retrieved March 24, 2021).

<sup>51</sup> Slapp & Shtick 2021:26.

<sup>52</sup> Proctor, J., & Larsen, K. (2018, January 29). “ICBC a ‘financial dumpster fire,’ says B.C. attorney general.” *CBC*. Available at <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/icbc-a-financial-dumpster-fire-says-b-c-attorney-general-1.4508849> (retrieved March 28, 2022).

the near miraculous turnaround of ICBC, which forecasted \$1.9 billion in profit in the 2021/2022 fiscal year,<sup>53</sup> suggests virile Virgo vigor has had a positive effect on the BC NDP Party's financial acumen.

We noted that the lack of assertive and goal driven "Aries across the board will present challenges for the BC Legislature," and "almost certainly mean that we are in for some lengthy debates and long committee meetings."<sup>54</sup> Here we can turn to Hansard to provide quantifiable evidence to support the truthiness of our prediction. Records of the first session of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament of course began on page one, and by the end of March 10, 2022, Hansard had recorded 5,329 pages.<sup>55</sup> If this does not constitute the record of lengthy debates and committee meetings, we aren't sure what does.

With respect to the caucuses, we had predicted strong Leo energy resulting in some differences of opinion around policy within the BC NDP Party caucus, and as we have seen, one example of just such a division could be seen around the issue of Wet'suwet'en. Our prediction that there would be few spiritual conflicts within the BC NDP Party caucus held, as no spiritual conflicts were observed.<sup>56</sup>

We predicted that the over-abundance of Aquarius and Leo energy, without countervailing forces from Virgos, Libras, Sagittarians, or Pisces, within the BC Liberals, would lead to this party taking "the wrong position on a number of important issues in the coming year," and we advised the BC Liberals to "avoid making any hasty decisions and consider conducting extensive polling."<sup>57</sup> We recognize that being right or wrong on any given issue is a highly subjective thing, though a good number of people we spoke to felt that this was the case.<sup>58</sup> The next provincial election will determine whether or not Kevin Falcon was a good choice for leader, so it is likely too soon to tell. As such, while the remainder of our predictions were spot on, given the indeterminacy of this prediction, we opted to bump our hit rate down to the aforementioned 98.2%.

The highlight, some might say tour de force, of the predictions made in our previous report can be found nestled snugly in footnote 59 of that report,<sup>59</sup> where we made the following prediction:

*"We further predict that we will release a report following-up on the success of these predictions in a year's time. Furthermore, we predict that in this report, we*

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<sup>53</sup> Zussman, R. (2022, March 3). "Massive ICBC profits not expected to go back to customers for now." *Global News*. Available at <https://globalnews.ca/news/8657941/icbc-profits-no-rebate/> (retrieved March 28, 2022).

<sup>54</sup> Slapp & Schtick 2021:26.

<sup>55</sup> See Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. (March 10, 2022). "Official report of debates (Hansard)." available at <https://www.leg.bc.ca/content/hansard/42nd3rd/20220310pm-Hansard-n171.pdf> (retrieved March 28, 2022).

<sup>56</sup> Whether it is possible to observe such conflicts if a question that is still up for debate, as is whether such conflicts are even 'a thing.'

<sup>57</sup> Slapp & Schtick 2021:27.

<sup>58</sup> Where 'a good number' = +/-17 people, who has that many friends after all?

<sup>59</sup> Slapp & Schtick 2021:27, at fn. 59.

*will boast about having predicted the publication of the report in a footnote.  
This very footnote! Mark our words well."*

At this point, there is very little else to say without sounding too smug, so we will vaingloriously transition to the conclusion.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> What's this? Yet another prognosticating footnote? That's right, a footnote wherein we make a prediction even more audacious than that which was presented in the aforementioned exalted footnote 59. Through a complicated process involving oneiromancy, nephomancy, and rhabdomancy best left to the imaginations of our readers, we predict that come this time next year, we will once again publish a report. However, this report will differ significantly from this one and its predecessor. Rather than focusing on astrology and looking to the stars to winnow insight into BC politics, we predict that the report published next year will employ another method of divination, one that is even more subtle, even more esoteric than the methods employed herein. We also predict that in this report, footnote 17 will contain a reference to an infamous Monty Python Sketch, one referencing an over-abundance of Anguilliformes in an air-cushion vehicle. And verily, by the boldness of our predictions, shall ye know us to speak the truth.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As the government has yet to take up our recommendations from our previous report, we must reiterate them, in a bigger font, so they are taken more seriously, and urgently, this year.

- 1. The BC Legislature should hire an official astrologer** – This is becoming urgent. Starting sessions of the BC Legislature with prayer is proving to be dangerous, as this practice risks incurring supernatural wrath. BC has quite enough to be getting on with, thank you very much, it doesn't need more wrath, especially of the celestial variety. But without an official astrologer, we have no way of knowing if the 10 am start time (Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday) or the 1:30 pm start time (Wednesday) are portentous times to begin a legislative session.<sup>61</sup>

Likewise, sessions of the BC Legislature are held with seemingly no consideration for the position of celestial bodies. Without an official astrologer, members of the BC Legislature could be conducting official business and debating legislation that could impact the lives of millions of British Columbians on a day with Mercury in retrograde.<sup>62</sup> Imagine passing a budget without the celestial support of Venus ascendant?<sup>63</sup> This would certainly be asking for trouble.

There are so many spiritual and metaphysical pitfalls that can be avoided by a BC Legislature under the guidance of an official astrologer, and we can't afford not to employ one.

- 2. The BC Legislature should invest in other forms of divination** –

Astrology is only one way of telling the future, and while it is said to be highly reliable, we should cross-reference it with other forms of divination. We recommend:

- a) Rhapsodomancy – Given the number of MLA's who have opted to share poems, there is certainly an appreciation for the poetic arts. If the Legislative Assembly is going to continue to take time every day out of their schedule for "Prayer's and Reflections," why not maximize their use for policy analysis and literary analysis? After all, we are experiencing a Climate Emergency and it is important to reduce reuse and recycle.<sup>64</sup>
- b) Stolisomancy – Maybe the "right to bare arms" will let us know if we should "bare arms" or continue to keep giving \$400 million of public funds to private schools.

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<sup>61</sup> Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. (n.d.). "Parliamentary Calendar." Available at <https://www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/parliamentary-calendar> (retrieved March 24, 2021).

<sup>62</sup> As you should know, one should always take precautions when Mercury is in retrograde. See for example Booth. J. (2021). "2021 Best & Worst Days for Various Activities." *Astrology Booth*. Available at <https://astrologybooth.com/wp-content/uploads/Best-and-Worst-Days-of-2021.pdf> (retrieved March 28, 2021), p. 1.

<sup>63</sup> See for example Booth 2021:2.

<sup>64</sup> "I am the Lorax and I speak for the trees."

Given recent changes to the legislative dress code, perhaps the recent changes in style have led to legislative changes. Do purple socks mean we are in for new COVID-19 restrictions? Perhaps there is a shortage of nurses because there are not enough MLAs wearing tan suits?

- c) Phyllorhodomancy: – The BC Parliament grounds house not only the BC Legislature, but a range of foliage. By taking time to examine the fallen petals or gaze at the dogwood trees, MLAs can learn what the future has in store and have recess. Given that the Premier’s Rose Garden contains 12 varieties of roses, the possibilities are endless.<sup>65</sup>
- d) Hypnomancy – Canadians are not getting nearly enough sleep.<sup>66</sup> With such important responsibilities, it is important that our MLAs and legislative staff are well rested. Introducing nap time could not improve the quality of debate, but also the quality and quantity of sleep. This is a dedicated nap time, rather than informal nap time during committee sessions.
- e) Augury – Recently, an MLA discussed seagulls in his “Prayer or Reflection.”<sup>67</sup> We believe that MLAs should be discussing seagulls and birds as a whole way more. Perhaps it will also encourage the return of Vancouver icon “Canuck the Crow” (better known as the “knife wielding crow”).<sup>68</sup>

### **3. The birth dates, down to the minute and geographic location for every MLA and political candidate be made publicly available –**

Without accurate details such as the location and exact time of someone’s birth, voters will have no way of knowing if an elected official is the right match for them. Voters should have a right to know the star signs of political candidates, and without this information, they could make choices based on the merits of candidates, parties, platforms, or even their values and interests.<sup>69</sup> Keeping this information from the public is a form of electoral synastric suppression, which has no place in a modern democracy.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> Little, S. (2020, April 17). “Infamous BC legislature wood splitter seized again by RCMP.” *Global News*. Available at <https://globalnews.ca/news/6836028/bc-legislature-wood-splitter-seized-rcmp/> (retrieved March 24, 2021).

<sup>66</sup> Public Health Agency of Canada. (2019, March 14). “Are Canadians getting enough sleep?”. Available at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-adults-getting-enough-sleep-infographic.html> (retrieved March 21, 2022).

<sup>67</sup> Coulter, D. (2021, June 10). “Prayers and reflections.” *Legislative Assembly of British Columbia*. Available at <http://videoarchive.leg.bc.ca/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/0/0/8055?viewMode=3&mediastarttime=20210610100000&mediaendtime=20210610115631> (retrieved March 31, 2022).

<sup>68</sup> We miss you Canuck! See: Larsen, K. (2019, September 11). “Disappearance of Canuck the Crow sparks accusations of crow napping”. *CBC News*. Available at <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/disappearance-of-canuck-the-crow-sparks-accusations-of-crow-napping-1.5272098> (retrieved March 31, 2022).

<sup>69</sup> Nice.

<sup>70</sup> As a final recommendation: **We are once again asking MLAs to end legislative prayers.** Paraphrasing Sanders, B. (2019, December 30). “Chip in Before Midnight on Tuesday.” Available at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=external&v=1432095036949106> (retrieved March 31, 2022).