

# The evolution of gov.bc.ca

Some years with minor design changes are not shown

The image shows a horizontal timeline of the gov.bc.ca website's evolution from 1997 to 2009. Each year is marked with a screenshot of the website's design at that time. The design evolves from a simple, text-heavy layout in 1997 to a more complex, multi-column layout with a prominent sidebar and search bar by 2009. The text below each screenshot describes key design changes and features introduced during that period.

**1997**

1997 was the first year shown. The website features a prominent navigation sidebar on the left with categories like "BC Facts", "News", "Government", and "Business". The main content area is centered and uses a serif font (Times New Roman). A large banner image is at the top.

**2000**

Navigation moves to the top of the page, new sidebars are added left and right, and the main content switches to "Latest News." The font is switched to a sans serif style for easier readability.

**2001**

A new "BC Connects" tool is added to the page, giving users a "direct connection to electronic government services."

**2003**

A new "Premier's Features" section is added to the sidebar on the right.

**2005**

A new search bar appears at the top of the page.

**2006**

Colourful new buttons are added to the sidebar to advertise various government programs and initiatives.

**2009**

By 2009, there are buttons, buttons, buttons.

Around 1997, the B.C. government introduces its first "Internet gateway." The main navigation is on the left side of the page. Notice the serif font—Times New Roman?

Navigation moves to the top of the page, new sidebars are added left and right, and the main content switches to "Latest News." The font has also switched to a sans serif style, easier to read on screen.

A new "BC Connects" tool is added to the page, giving users a "direct connection to electronic government services."

A new "Premier's Features" section is added to the sidebar on the right.

A new search bar appears at the top of the page.

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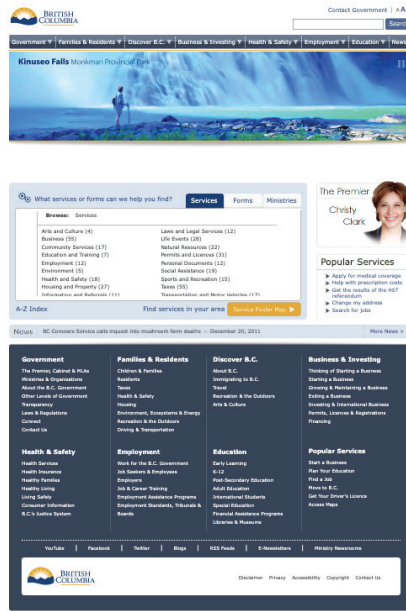
By 2009, there are buttons, buttons, buttons.

2010



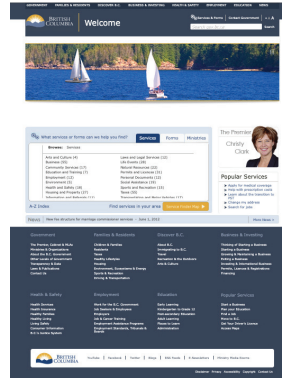
A full-screen background image appears, along with new social media links in the sidebar. The main content continues to be "News," with links to government news releases.

2011



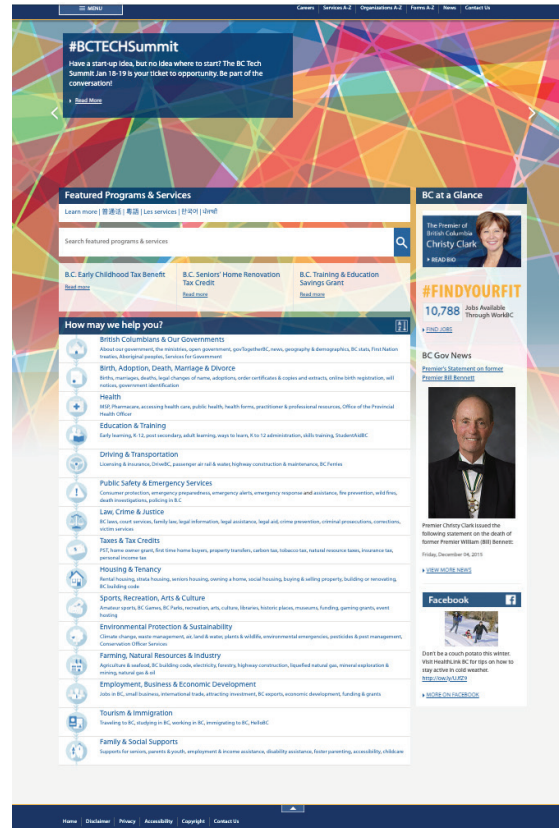
The 2011 redesign introduces major changes, including: a less cluttered two-column layout (down from three); a new header and footer; two new mega menus; and a new tool, a service finder map. "News" is reduced to a single line mid-page. Social media links move to the footer.

2012



A new header is added and navigation moves to the top of the page.

2015



The 2015 redesign introduces major changes, including a new slider with full-screen background image, a new "Featured Programs and Services" section in five languages, and a prominent search bar. One new mega menu replaces the previous two. A new "BC at a glance" sidebar features WorkBC, BC Gov News, and Facebook. Social media links disappear from the footer.

2016



Photos are added to the "Featured Programs and Services" section.

2018 (early)



"What's happening?" replaces "Featured Programs and Services." The search function briefly disappears.

2018 (late)



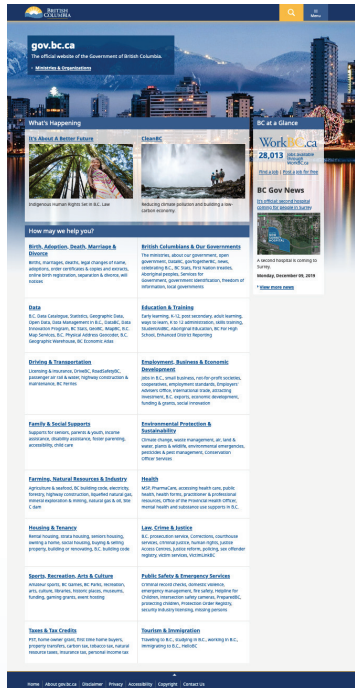
The search function reappears as an icon in a simplified new navigation bar at the top of the page.

2019 (early)



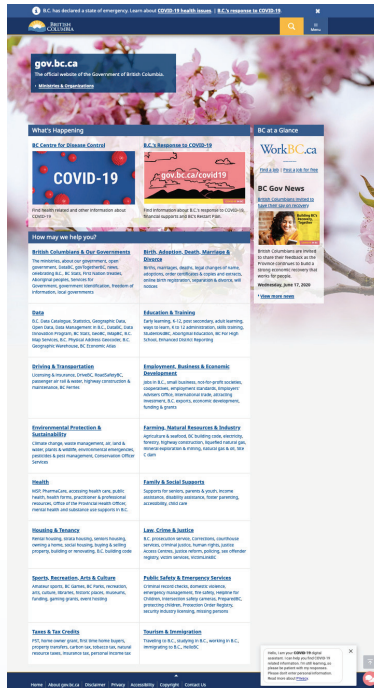
The main menu is tweaked and Facebook disappears from the sidebar.

2019 (late)



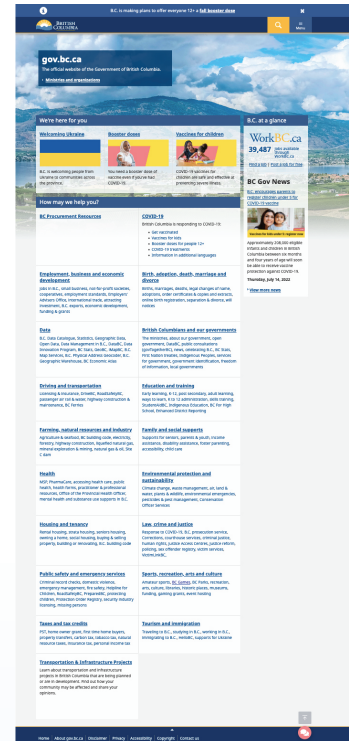
The main menu changes from a list to a grid format.

2020



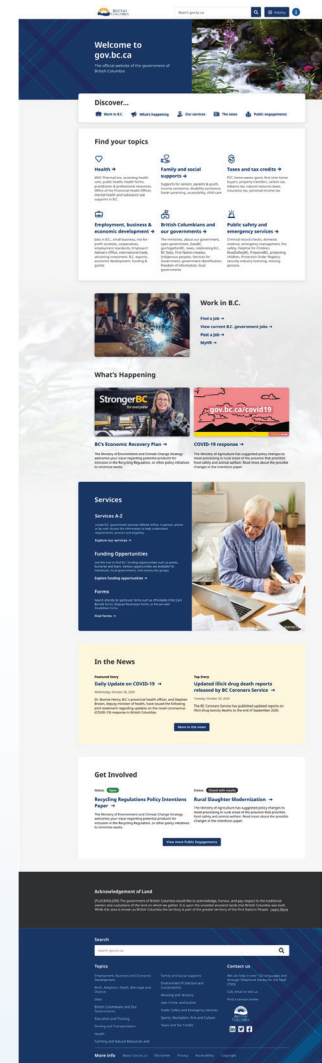
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a new information bulletin is added to the top and a new chatbot is added to the bottom of every page.

2022



"What's happening?" becomes "We're here for you." The main menu expands and the chatbot is simplified.

2023



Major changes are coming, including a new navigation and search bar, new menus, new sections, and a new footer with land acknowledgement, search bar, menu, social media links and more. No sidebars! The vertical layout is optimized for mobile.