

The Speaker



Message from the Chair

I would like to congratulate BCYP's outgoing House Leaders Ambrose Yung (Premier), Nathan How (Leader of the Opposition) and Darya Ali (Deputy Speaker) and the entire BCYP Cabinet on a successful parliamentary year. BCYP continued to build on the success of the past sessional year and continued to improve on what it does best. Regional Youth Parliaments were a resounding success as were the various service projects held throughout the Province. The most important project worth noting is Project Phoenix which was a series of drop-in day camps held in Burnaby throughout the summer. Look for a report from the minister on page 5 of this newsletter.

I am looking forward to the upcoming sessional year and the enthusiasm that they are bringing so far. The incoming House Leaders are Darya Ali (Premier), Jason Zhou (L of O) and Nathan How (Deputy Speaker).

It was a pleasure this year to work with a dedicated group of Senators. Every Senator has made valuable contributions over the past year. There are some Senators who will be leaving us this year. I would like to thank Sasa Pudar who served as executive director for the last two years, Corrigan Cassidy who has served on the RYP and risk management committees over the past few years. I would especially like to thank Susie da Silva who over her many years as a senator has been a camp director a camp steering committee member and media secretary. This does leave some vacancies to be filled for the upcoming year including CRO. We are looking for Senators at large as well as anyone who is prepared to learn about the role of Registrar with a view to take it over in the next year. Please email me at chair@bcyp.org if you are interested.

We unfortunately had to cancel the 85th BCYP Alumni Celebration and XYP due to lack of membership. I would like to thank Dora, Danica, Jenn, Jeremy and James who served on the committee and Linda Reid for her support.

Rhonda Vanderfluit, Chair

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11 am Sunday, November 23, 2014
UBC Medical Student and Alumni Center
2750 Heather Street, Vancouver, BC
(12th & Heather)

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Nominate one of your fellow alumni for the YPBCAS Award for Outstanding Leadership:

Candidates must have made contributions to the alumni in excess of what is expected or made an enduring impact on the community at large. email nomination letters to Rhonda (chair@bcyp.org) by Nov 21.

Happy Turnover, everyone!

Congratulations to all outgoing Members, in particular outgoing Premier, Ambrose Yung, and the wonderful Cabinet he led. I would also like to congratulate all incoming Members (although you may not know who you are yet) on what I hope will be an incredible Session! With that, comes thanking all those involved with both Membership Review and the Committee on Elections. This opportunity is a result of the hours of debate and envelope stuffing on their parts, and for that, we thank you!

Going forward into this year, we're hoping to make everything Parliament is involved with bigger and better – in the most non-cliché of ways. We're proposing to expand Project Phoenix into a consecutive day drop-in in the Lower Mainland, as well as to expand it into the Northern and Island regions. We're also planning to host all six Regional Youth Parliaments once again to ensure continuity and inclusiveness of all our Members and their communities.

If you have any questions about projects or activities we're planning, or about the upcoming Session as a whole, please don't hesitate to email my Cabinet or I! Our emails are listed in the “contact us” section of the website at www.bryp.org. We've also jumped into the 21st century with the use of social media! Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @bcyparliament or under the British Columbia Youth Parliament.

Sincerely,
Darya Ali
Premier



Happy 40th Birthday BCYP!

(A little BCYP history thanks to Section A of the Journal)

Prior to 1974 BCYP was known as the Older Boys Parliament. With the election of the NDP under Dave Barrett, pressure came from the government to open Parliament to all or face losing the use of the Legislature. Thus the British Columbia Youth Parliament came into being for the 44th Session in 1974¹. The first female Premier of BCYP was Susan Hunter of the 49th Session in 1977. The first female Deputy Speaker was Carolyn Craven in the 52nd Session in 1980 and the first female L of O was Sharon Sutherland in the 54th Session in 1982. The Honourable Linda Reid may not be the first female Speaker of BC but she was the first female Speaker of BCYP at the 55th Session in 1983.

In some recent years, the BCYP membership has been as much as 2/3 female. More recently we have been a bit more balanced. This year 50 of the 95 members accepted to the 86th BCYP are female. BCYP can now celebrate 40 years of including women. There are no barriers for the roles that women have filled over the last 40 years. BCYP has seen women fill all of the House Leader and Cabinet Positions as well as Clerk, Speaker, LG, Media Secretary and Senate. BCYP continues to be an inclusive organization and our Registrar and Committee on elections works hard to eliminate barriers to membership.



3 of the 4 all-female clerking team from the 85th BCYP and 4 of the female ex-AGs in attendance at the 85th BCYP



The women of Cabinet and Shadow past (59th BCYP) and future

¹ For those who are keeping track this is the 86th Session coming up so how could this be 40 years ago? The answer is due to some tricky renumbering. There was no 46th or 48th Sessions. The Sessions held in 1976 and 1977 were numbered 47th and 49th respectively in order to compensate for the regional parliaments held in 1939 and for the Parliamentary convention held in 1945.

Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

With thanks to Her Honour, Lieutenant-Governor Judith Guichon, Ambrose Yung, Premier and Angus Lockhart, Minister of Corporate Relations and Internet Affairs of the 85th BCYP along with Rhonda Vanderfluit Chair of Senate were honoured to attend the Association of Former MLAs of BC annual dinner at Government House in Victoria on September 26, 2014. We were thrilled to learn that the association recently created a scholarship fund in honour of the late Hugh Curtis which will provide scholarships for one male and one female to attend BCYP. Youth Parliament has had a long history with the association and Hugh Curtis felt strongly about that relationship. It was very special to attend the evening with Hugh's family in attendance to hear a touching tribute followed by this special announcement. BCYP and YPBCAS are grateful to the Association Board of Directors, Gillian Trumper, President as well as Linda Reid, Honourary Member for their ongoing support.



Angus Lockhart, Honourable Speaker Linda Reid, Rhonda Vanderfluit and Ambrose Yung

BCYP Update: Project Phoenix 2014

Project Phoenix Report

Tony Zhao Project Coordinator

Project Phoenix is a summer drop-in day camp designed for youths aged 8-13. It was held this summer in late July and early August at Central Park in Burnaby. Each drop-in day lasted 6 hours, and over 70 youths participated in the activities each day. Activities at camp included various crafts and sports. Over 20 BCYP and RYP members were engaged in organizing camp and facilitating activities during camp. The camp was offered free of charge, and all expenses associated with the project were covered by donations from sponsors such as Superstore. For the future, we wish to increase the size of the project by having more drop-in sessions during the summer; we are also striving to organize similar drop-in summer day camps on the islands and in the interior.



Alumni Update Form/Change of address form

Name: _____

Session/Former Position: _____

Your news/ new address: _____

Please mail this form to:

Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society

Or email Paul at:

c/o Paul Dhillon
302 – 35 Alport Cres
Regina, Sask S4R 8C6

alumni@bcyp.org

For decades, the **Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society** has provided valuable support for BCYP. As the official sponsor, we organize and resource the annual session for youth from across the province. It provides a valuable opportunity for youth to gain leadership experience, and encourages a spirit of volunteerism and community responsibility through individual and group service projects.

In this era of increasing government fiscal restraint, our grants have decreased. Additionally, our operating expenses for the session, including transportation and accommodation for members have continued to rise. We are attempting to keep session fees at reasonable levels to encourage a diverse group of participants, and are actively pursuing alternative fundraising opportunities.

We would also ask at this time that you consider donating to the **Alumni Society** to help us make this year's parliamentary **Session** a success.

Making a donation to the **Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society** ensures that young people from around the province can participate in an organization that benefits not only themselves but also their community.

Thank you for your Support!

Yes, I want to help support the Alumni Society sponsor BCYP! Please send your donation along with this card to:

The Youth Parliament of British Columbia Alumni Society

c/o James Stansfield, Treasurer
9026 Ben Nevis Cres
Surrey, BC V3V 6K5

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount: \$ _____