



Spring has sprung!

by Paul Dhillon

The winter has finally started to melt away across the country and alumni of BCYP are hard at work supporting the next generation of BCYP Alumni in a number of different ways.

Alumni attended the Session this year and were a great help in running a smooth session clerking behind the scenes.

I have been gently coaxed into the role of Alumni Affairs from Neil Chahal and will try and make sure to keep The Speaker up to his high standards and a note of thanks is necessary to him for his help in the transition process.

It has been a great experience so far and a great chance to reconnect with past alumni, some of whom will be profiled in this, and future, editions of the Speaker.

Please feel free to contact me at any stage with suggestions, news updates, address updates, and any other feedback in relation to The Speaker or any other alumni issues through the contact information below.

Sincerely,
Paul Dhillon

www.bryp.org/alumni

Facebook: BC Youth Parliament Alumni

Email: Alumni.affairs@bryp.org

Of particular note to alumni is the upcoming alumni gathering in Victoria. The date has tentatively been set for Saturday, September 20, 2014 at the BC Legislature to celebrate the 85th Sessional year.

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Message from the Chair

by Rhonda Vanderfluit

I would like to congratulate the three House Leaders for making Session such a success. BCYP's Premier, Ambrose Yung has shown great leadership so far in this Sessional year. Darya Ali did an excellent job as Deputy Speaker and Nathan How was a fantastic Leader of the Opposition. I was especially impressed with the level of debate in the House this year and it bodes well for the Sessional year ahead. Ambrose along with an enthusiastic Cabinet are reigniting the spirit of youth serving youth by organizing a children's afternoon program and summer day-camp project for kids led by BCYP members. So far the project is off to a good start. For more information about this exciting project you can contact Tony Zhao, Minister of Service tony.zhao@bcyp.org.

I would like to thank some Senators who have stepped down this year. We appreciate the work that you have done over the last few years. On behalf of Senate I would like to thank Karen Ratchford for her two years of service to Senate as she served as Secretary for two years and Treasurer for one. I would also like to thank Neil Chahal for acting as the Alumni Affairs Director for the past two years. He did a great job of compiling the Speaker newsletter.

Thank you to the Senators who have committed to yet another year with our organization. Ten Senators have carried over from last year. I would especially like to thank Jenn Jay for stepping in to fill the role of Chief Returning Officer this year. Jenn has also taken on the role of Vice Chair this year. I also appreciate the fact that Dora Turje has continued on as Registrar and Sasa Pudar as Executive Director. I would like to thank Susie da Silva and Julie Jackson for stepping in to share the role of Secretary this year. Thank you also to Senators

who took on House Servant roles during Session. Danica Wong did an outstanding job as Head Clerk once again and I had so much fun being able to Clerk with her for a few days. Susie da Silva's expertise was appreciated as she once again acted as Media Secretary.

We have welcomed three new Senators this year. A big thank you goes out to James Stansfield who volunteered to serve as our Senate Treasurer. Paul Dhillon has stepped forward as our new Alumni Affairs Director. Senate also welcomes back Percy Lee who was our executive Director for the 83rd Session.

I also feel that a few alumni deserve special mention for their contributions to Senate and Session. Thank you to Alan Ip who although not on Senate was acting Executive Director at Session. Jason Herbert and Aniz Alani have provided advice and support by acting as alumni liaisons for Cabinet. Of course a special mention goes out to Linda Reid who has continued to provide support for Senate and Cabinet and the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society would like to congratulate her on her appointment as Speaker of the BC Legislature. It was a pleasure to have Linda once again as Lieutenant Governor at Session.

Congratulations to Sarah Bonner who was awarded the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society Award for Outstanding Leadership. Sarah served on Senate for many years and set the standard for professionalism and commitment in her role as Executive Director. It was my honour to present the award to her at an informal alumni



sitting of SWYP during Session to celebrate BCYP's 85th Session.

Senate is hoping to hold an alumni gathering in Victoria. The date has tentatively been set for Saturday, September 20, 2014 at the BC Legislature to celebrate the 85th Sessional year. The details are still in the planning stages but we are hoping to have access to the Legislative Chambers in order to hold an alumni XYP sitting as well as a reception. Look for a separate invitation soon with all the details. If you are interested in helping out with this project please email me at chair@bcyp.org.

Senate always welcomes interested alumni to join us at Senate meetings or to offer your advice and experience to BCYP's Cabinet. Please email me at chair@bcyp.org if you would like to be added to the email list about upcoming Senate meetings.

On behalf of the Senate Awards Committee, it is my pleasure to announce that these awards were conferred on the following individuals at Session:

Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society Award for Outstanding Leadership – Sarah Bonner

After serving as a member for six years, Sarah returned to BCYP in 1989 to take on the role of Executive Director. This is a role she would keep for over 15 years, despite gaining a master's degree, having children and changing jobs. During this time, she worked tirelessly on behalf of the organization to improve the sessional experience for members and maintain BCYP's key relationships in Victoria. Among many other accomplishments, under Sarah's leadership, BCYP received the same rate at the Harbour Towers Hotel for 6 straight years – a rate which was significantly lower than the market rate available at other hotels in the city. This enabled Senate to avoid significant registration fee increases for a number of years, without having to seek additional grant support. When she eventually did move on, Sarah was diligent in providing written details and personal support to her successor, and her negotiations with ICBC served as a useful template for building our current relationship with the Provincial Capital Commission.

Donald Fergus Paynter Memorial Award for Leadership – Ambrose Yung

Ambrose has had a significant impact on BCYP not only as Premier so far this year, but also through his overall leadership within the organization over the past two years.

Beginning his parliamentary career somewhat under the radar, in addition to taking on three ministries—Community Fundraising, Lower Mainland, and Service – last year Ambrose stepped into the role of Deputy Speaker when the Deputy Speaker-elect had to resign shortly before taking office. This took significant courage and was a step

outside of his comfort zone, as he had never before served as a Deputy Speaker or Attorney General. Ambrose soon proved wrong those who initially felt he was too young or inexperienced to do justice to the position. He prepared himself thoroughly and meticulously, both through self-learning and by taking it upon himself to build mentoring relationships with a number of past Deputy Speakers.

As Premier, Ambrose has appointed an enthusiastic and able group of ministers who, despite their youth, have shown great promise and energy. Ambrose's successful proposal for a Monthly Afternoon Program also signals a renewal of BCYP's core principal of Youth Serving Youth, following several years devoid of organization-wide service initiatives.

Fisi Award for Service – Nathan How

In addition to serving as Attorney General last year, Nathan volunteered with the Victoria Symphony's "Instrument Petting Zoo," where young children attending the youth concerts are given two-minute crash courses in the instruments they saw being played during the concert. He also volunteered with the B.C. Cancer Agency, serving as an intern researcher and helping in the lab. Nathan sits on the board of directors for the African AIDS Angels and runs their Youth Committee, giving presentations to schools, churches and other groups to raise awareness about the effects of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. For all this and more, Nathan was the recipient of a National Youth in Action Award, presented at the 2013 Toronto We Day.

Inspiring New Member Award – Mackenzie Lockhart and Tony Zhao

Despite being a first-year member, Mackenzie began his youth parliament career as a stylish and eloquent Shadow Critic. Never having attended a Regional Youth Parliament, he nevertheless served as Minister of Finance and was elected as Leader of the Opposition at the Vancouver Youth Parliament. He also organized the

regional's only post-session event. Mackenzie also proved his dedication to BCYP's projects by road tripping to clerk at the Southern Interior Youth Parliament in the spring.

Tony was appointed to Cabinet after Session as Deputy Minister of Service. In this role, he assisted the Minister of Service in planning many of the smaller-scale projects and initiatives that took place in the Lower Mainland, including the UBC Walk for the Cure and the summer walk-a-thon. During the spring, Tony was also asked to serve as Chairperson of the Regional Planning Committee for the Lower Mainland East Youth Parliament, where his leadership and enthusiasm were a major factor in



the success of Session.

Youth Parliament Bond Shield – Rachael Vey

Rachael raised \$262.27 in personal fundraising and donations – more than double the \$100 donation total required of members to return the following year.

Danica Wong

Chair of the Awards Committee

In Memorium

Carley Kennedy, alumni from the 76th and 77th Parliament's passed away suddenly this year in a car accident at the age of 27. She was the recipient of the Fisi award in 2005 and served as Minister of Public Relations, attended camp in 2005 and was a great friend to many in BCYP.



Message from the Premier

Thank you to all of the Alumni who helped out with this year's Session! Session was absolutely amazing and would not have been able to run smoothly without the help from all the people who came out to Victoria. Members were engaged and this is translating into many events being planned for our Sessional year.

In the last issue of The Speaker, I announced that we will be having a new project for this year. I am happy to say that we are currently in the planning stages. Please stay tuned for more information about this project. If you would like to help, please contact the Minister of Service, Tony Zhao, at tony.zhao@bcyp.org.

If you have any questions on projects or activities we are participating in, please don't hesitate to email myself or my cabinet with your questions! Our emails are in the contact us section of the website at www.bcyp.org!

Sincerely,

Ambrose Yung

Premier



Western Canada Youth Parliament

(WCYP) is a bi-annual event that brings together delegations from the British Columbia Youth Parliament, the TUXIS Parliament of Alberta, the Saskatchewan Youth Parliament and the Youth Parliament of Manitoba for a four-day parliamentary session over the May long weekend.

WCYP is an enriching experience for all who attend, whether it is a person's hundredth day of youth parliament Session or their first experience. It gives young people the opportunity to visit another province or showcase their own province for other people. It provides a forum for debate on inter-provincial, national and global issues. It also gives parliamentarians the chance to learn about the parliamentary tradition, procedures and character of other youth

parliaments.

WCYP last occurred in BC in May 2012, when it was hosted by the British Columbia Youth Parliament at the University of British Columbia. For information regarding the upcoming 16th WCYP, which will be held in 2014 in Saskatchewan, please contact the Minister of External Affairs, [Angus Lockhart](#) for more information.

Message from the Registrar

At Session this year we had 89 members, who made up for the empty seats in the House with the enthusiasm of their debates. There were 54 members from the Lower Mainland, 21 from the Interior, and 14 from the Island. Half of this year's Interior members are from the north of the province, with applications coming from quite a wide spread of communities. Island members are mostly from Greater Victoria. The registration fee this year remained steady at \$270, thanks to a grant from

Coast Capital Savings. Alumni donations are also a greatly appreciated source of funding for Session, especially as requests for financial assistance from both new and returning members remain high in recent years.

This year as for many years now, transportation of Lower Mainland and Interior members between Vancouver and Victoria was arranged with Pacific Coach Lines. A special "thank you" is due to PCL for providing the Society with a generous discount on the charter rate for their services, allowing us to continue to provide members with a comfortable and efficient travel experience. PCL's excellent service and generosity is greatly appreciated.

Dora Turje

Registrar


Pacif**ic**coach
TRAVEL EASY

Where is she now?

by Kristen Fung

What is your fondest memory of BCYP?

Camp Phoenix! I was Campfire Director one year and Kitchen Staff in another. Campfire songs, the stars in the sky, talent shows and dress-up nights, washing thousands of never-ending piles of forks until we couldn't see straight, and getting to know the wonderful kids who made me cry every year when I saw how much they loved camp and didn't want to leave! I also remember being the auctioneer one year for the Sweet Dreams auction that fundraised money for camp. Even the little things like selling baked goods at UBC or making sandwiches or picking up litter as a team are fond memories. It was cool to be a part of a unique group of people who actually care about being nerdy when it comes to the triple-threat combo of having fun, learning parliamentary procedure, and being of service to others.

What is one thing you learned at BCYP that is still with you today?

Embrace your inner nerd and make it an outer way of life. Do things outside of your comfort zone even though it seems like everybody else has their groove on and you're still figuring stuff out. It's the only way to grow, and the world needs more people who are scared to do things but do them anyway. Say hello to the person who is standing alone and has travelled 700 km to come to Session but doesn't know anybody while everyone else is chattering away. Apply for Shadow Cabinet even though you're terrified of public speaking and you barely know how to write a PMR. Go into the wilderness for a week and hang out with children even though you've never baby-sat or had a younger brother or sister. Run for Leader of the Opposition even though you don't really know what you're doing... you just might win and have to figure it out and ask your friends for help as you go along. :)

Where are you now?

I have to say I'm really grateful that my resume was already pretty "beefed up" for a high school student by the time I arrived at university thanks to all of the cool volunteering experiences at BCYP! I mean, we were organizing pretty large-scale fundraising events, operating a yearly children's summer camp, and facilitating province-wide essay contests for youth... and some of us weren't even 19 years old yet. After BCYP, I shifted my focus over to getting a Bachelor of Music in Voice at UBC (the singing bug I caught at those legendary Camp Phoenix campfires never left me), during which I started doing all kinds of work behind the scenes at a family resource centre, then a bereavement resource centre, then the Vancouver jazz festival, then the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. Now I'm living in Toronto as a professional singer/pianist, recently-certified high school teacher of music and drama, and assistant producer of special events in the arts, and I'm loving it more than a first-year marble-kisser loves an afternoon nap on day 3 of session. ;) Even though we're on completely different paths in our lives, some of my closest friends today are former BCYPers. We always chortle when people ask, "So, how do you guys know each other?! What's the common thread here?" I'd say sitting together in the Legislature Building in Victoria, BC for 5 days over the Christmas holidays for 5 years in a row in our teenhood is one of them...

Past/Current members can see what I'm up to at www.kristinfung.com and send me a note from there if you're looking to connect!

AROUND TORONTO



On Stage



In the house

