



The Speaker Youth Parliament of British Columbia Alumni Society

85th Anniversary XYP Event!

by Paul Dhillon

The BCYP Senate has been hard at work through a number of meetings in planning a great event in Victoria for the XYP event. Read on for more details and what will be an event to remember!

We can also happily report that all 3 House Leaders of this year's session have passed House Leader Review.

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.bcp.org/alumni

Facebook: BC Youth Parliament Alumni

Email: Alumni.affairs@bcyp.org

Message from the Chair

by Rhonda Vanderfluit

There is a lot going on this summer so the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society has decided to publish a special summer edition of The Speaker.

Firstly I would like to congratulate Darya Ali for being elected as Premier of the 86th BCYP in a special by-election in the spring after the position was left vacant.

I would also like to congratulate Ambrose Yung the current Premier for doing an outstanding job leading an enthusiastic cabinet and membership. I am excited to let everyone know that the highlight of the summer for BCYP will be Project Phoenix which is a series of summer day camps being held in Burnaby. See Ambrose's letter for more details.

The main reason for this summer publication is to invite all Alumni to our 85th Anniversary Alumni Celebration at the BC Legislature on Saturday, September 20, 2014. Please see the separate invite for more details. I would like to thank the members of the organizing committee for getting the ball rolling. Jenn Jay, Jeremy McElroy, Dora Turje, Danica Wong, Darya Ali and Ambrose Yung have all been working hard to bring you all an exciting event. If you are interested in helping out with this project please email me at chair@bcyp.org. Anyone who has any auction items to donate for the silent auction please let me know!

I would also like to encourage everyone to consider nominating someone for the Youth Parliament of BC Award for Outstanding Leadership which will be presented at the Alumni Reception on September 20. Past recipients are Linda Reid, Kerry Simmons and Sarah Bonner. I know that there is a long list of deserving alumni still to be considered.

Senate is also looking to fill a vacated Executive Director position recently vacated by Saša Pudar who has a big year ahead. Thank you to Saša for all of her hard work for the past two years. Saša recently graduated from UBC Law this spring and is starting her articles and she is getting married this summer. We wish her all the best for the upcoming year.

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.

Yours in Parliament,

Rhonda Vanderfluit, Chair



Joseph Chiliak SYP Premier, Kyle St. Thomas TUXIS Premier, and Ambrose Yung, BCYP Premier. The premier of YPM was unable to make it.

WESTERN CANADA YOUTH PARLIAMENT

On the Victoria Day long weekend this past May, five members from BCYP, including myself, made the long journey to Regina to participate in the 16th biennial Western Canada Youth Parliament. We had an amazing time debating a variety of resolutions from one in support of mandatory military service, to one in support of eliminating federal political parties, to one supporting the banning of Monsanto from Canada.

Our own Chris Coulson moved a resolution that proposed to legalize and regulate sex work employment within Canada while requiring them to have business licenses. This motion was officially critiqued by our own Mackenzie Lockhart.

I think it's safe to say that all of us who went experienced a serious culture shock when we arrived. Right from the start we were allowed to choose where in the house we wanted to sit (although some of us had reserved seats on opposition) and we were then asked to come up with our own constituency names in the form of puns based off city names.

Thanks to Jesse Bartsoff, BCYP managed to rise to that creative challenge with names like Nelson Mandela, Salmon Arm and Leg, or #HillaryClinton2016. The culture shock continued when we had to learn Saskatchewan's rules for bowing which were quite different from our own. While we tried to bring a bit of BC with us and continued to bow whenever we felt it was appropriate (on top of when SYP required us to) it didn't seem to catch on with anyone else.

Despite the shock, it was a great weekend getting to know people from across western Canada and learning a lot about them and their home parliaments. It was amazing to see how different, yet similar, each parliament was. I, for one, am excited to go to the next WCYP hosted by TUXIS in Alberta in two years to see how they run a Youth Parliament."

- Angus Lockhart
Minister of External Affairs | 85th British Columbia Youth Parliament
Minister of Public Relations | 85th British Columbia Youth Parliament



A photo of (almost) all the twins present at WCYP.

In this era of increasing charity organizations and non-for-profits, funding opportunities have become scarce. Our grants have decreased. At the same time, 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. Alumni contributions to BCYP are of tremendous help to keep Parliament's initiatives alive!

If you are able to make a contribution to Senate, you are encouraged to make a donation at the following website:

<http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s36109>. We accept all major credit cards and a tax receipt is instantly generated.