

The Speaker

YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ALUMNI SOCIETY

Volume 2012
Issue II

83RD SESSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This year has been a busy one both for BCYP and Senate especially in the spring. I would like to congratulate Parliament on hosting a very successful 15th Western Canada Youth Parliament in May. The committee led by Sarah O'Connor the Minister responsible for Westerns and Chief Returning Officer came together to put together a smoothly run event. The BCYP House Leaders were Allie Dickenson as Deputy Speaker, Jenelle Yonkman as Premier and Josh Hall, BCYP alumnus as Leader of the Opposition. The debate was lively and was entertaining to watch. Thanks to all the other BCYP alumni who stepped up to help make the event a success. The clerking team of Corrigan Cassidy produced an outstanding Journal. Susie Da Silva stepped up to serve as one of two Sessional Directors. Gavin Hoekstra, Alberta Tuxis alumnus served as Speaker and the other half of the Sessional Director team.

May also featured the 100 Years Young Celebration of 100 Years of Youth Parliament in Canada. Thank you to all the alumni who came out to support the organization.

[continued on page 2]



www.bcyp.org/alumni



BC Youth Parliament Alumni



alumni.affairs@bcyp.org



778-999-7499

COMMITTED TO ENSURING THE CONTINUITY OF BC YOUTH PARLIAMENT



[MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, continued from page 1]

It was great to see so many faces from different generations of Parliamentarians. To mark the event Senate created an alumni award which honours the outstanding contribution to the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society.

The inaugural award was presented to Linda Reid. After retiring from BCYP Linda served on Senate for many years and was the Chair of Senate. Linda also served as Speaker and Lieutenant Governor of BCYP at Session. As a Senator, Linda was a mentor to many Parliamentarians and continues to do so as a sitting BC MLA. It was an honour to present the award to Linda this year. The list of deserving alumni for this award will not be exhausted any time soon. Senate would like to present the next alumni award at the AGM. If you would like to nominate someone for this award please see the notice from the Awards Committee for the award criteria and deadlines for submission.

With all of the retiring Senators last year we had quite a change over on Senate. It was a pleasure to work with such an energetic group of new Senators as well as the returning dedicated Senators. Since it is such a new group this year many of the existing Senate plan to stand for re-election but there will still be some vacancies to fill. Most notably, our Treasurer Travis Wong and our Executive Director Percy Lee have decided to step down. Jenn Jay has decided to step down as Chief Returning Officer but will be standing for re-election to Senate. I would like to thank all of these hard working and dedicated alumni for their service to the organization. If you are interested in standing for election to Senate I invite you to attend the AGM on November 24, 2012 at UBC and contact me at jashon@shaw.ca for more information.

- Rhonda Vanderluit, Chair -



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society

Saturday, November 24, 2012 · 12:30 – 3:30PM
Meekison Arts Student Space (Buchanan D140)
1866 Main Mall, University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC

- Approval of Annual Financial Statements
- Ratification of Activities of the Board
- Election of Board of Directors

Interested in knowing more about the Board of Directors?
Contact Rhonda Vanderluit, BCYP Alumni Society Chair,
at jashon@shaw.ca.





BY-LAWS REVISIONS COMMITTEE

As with any long serving organization, it has come time to review our by-laws. The present Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society by-laws often times do not adequately represent the roles of the officers or procedures which must be followed.

As such, the Board of Directors is striking a committee to review the by-laws in order to determine the extent of the necessary changes and is asking for members of the Alumni Society to join and participate in the discussion. If you are interested in taking part of the by-law renewal or adding your comments to the process, please contact Sasa Pudar, Risk Management Committee Chair, at sasapudar@gmail.com.



- Sasa Pudar, Risk Management Committee Chair -



MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER



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 charity organizations and not-for-profits, funding opportunities have become scarce. Our grants have decreased. At the same time, our operating

expenses for the parliamentary session, including transportation and accommodation for members have continued to rise. We are attempting to keep session registration fee at a reasonable level 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!

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

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>. All major credit cards and PayPal are accepted, and a tax receipt will be instantly generated.

- Travis Wong, Treasurer -



MESSAGE FROM THE REGISTRAR

Yet again, the calendar has rolled around to recruitment season for the upcoming Session of youth parliament. Recruitment efforts are well underway, and this year's application deadline is October 23rd. For anyone considering making a donation to the Alumni Society, consider the fact that this year's registration fee is \$270, almost as high as it has ever gone in previous years (with a better economic climate for both our members and the Society).

You will find a copy of the application form for the 84th British Columbia Youth Parliament enclosed with this edition of The Speaker. If you know any young people aged 16-21 who might be interested in joining BCYP, please pass on the form. There is also a soft copy of the form, as well as a brochure and poster, available at www.bcup.org/joinus.html.

I truly appreciate any personal contacts for recruitment you may be able to make. If you would like more copies of the form or copies of the brochure or poster, or if you have any other questions or comments, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at registrar@bcyp.org or by phone at 604-728-0446.

- Dora Turje, Registrar -



MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

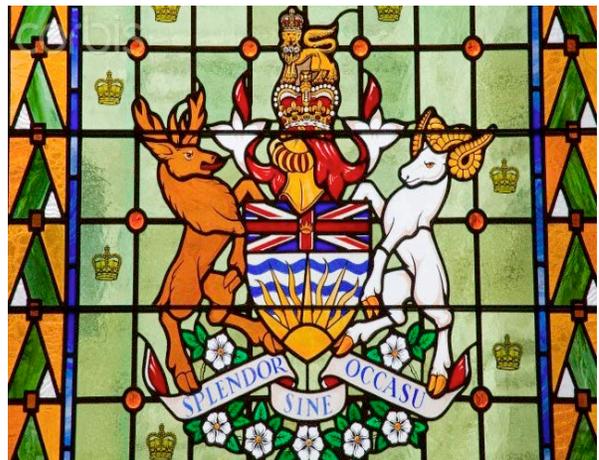
This past sessional year has been one of excitement and success. At the end of the 83rd Session in December, the members went back to their communities ready to volunteer, inspire other youth, and continue the friendships made at Session.

This year, we held 5 extremely successful Regional Youth Parliaments. I would like to say a huge thank you to Allie Dickson for once again doing an amazing job as the Minister of Regional Youth Parliaments! Myself and the rest of Parliament really appreciate her hard work. This year Regionals were held around the province and once again gave the youth of BC a chance to learn about parliamentary procedure, gain new volunteer opportunities, and make new friends.

BC was the host province for the 15th Session of the Western Canada Youth Parliament. BCYP hosts this event every 8 years and this year it was an amazing event. I would like to thank and congratulate the Minister of External Affairs, Sarah O'Connor, for organizing such a successful event. Once again, BCYP showed the TUXIS Parliament of Alberta, the Saskatchewan Youth Parliament, and the Youth Parliament of Manitoba, what BCYP is all about. Westerns provided the chance for youth across western Canada to come together in Vancouver, share knowledge, and make new friends. I look forward to seeing BCYP host it once again in the year 2020!

As this Sessional year comes to an end, I would like to thank all of Cabinet for their hard work, and all of the members for their dedication. It has been a very big learning experience for me, and it is inspiring to see how amazing the youth of BC can be. I wish the Premier of the 84th Youth Parliament, Sarah O'Connor, good luck and I hope next year will be great.

- Jessica McElroy, Premier -





Interested in reconnecting with BCYP? Email us at alumni.affairs@bcyp.org



ALUMNI SOCIETY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

On behalf of the Senate Awards Committee, it is my pleasure to request nominations for the **Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society Award for Outstanding Leadership**. I encourage you to take the time to recognize the contributions of your fellow alumni by nominating someone for this honour.

Award History

This brand new award was inaugurated at the "100 Years Young: Celebrating 100 Years of Youth Parliament in Canada" event earlier this year, with the first award going to MLA Linda Reid. Moving forward, the award will be conferred annually at the Annual General Meeting.

Award Criteria

This award is presented to a member of the Youth Parliament of British Columbia Alumni Society for dedication to and support of the Youth Parliament movement in the province of British Columbia, and for continued service embodying the ideals of the BC Youth Parliament. The individual must have made contributions and/or benefactions to the BC Youth Parliament and/or the Alumni Society in excess of what is expected of a member of the Alumni Society. Special consideration may be offered for a person who has made an enduring impact in the community at large, consistent with promoting the mental, physical and spiritual well-being of British Columbians.

Nominations

If you would like to nominate someone for this award, please compose a 750-1000 word write-up providing specific examples of how he/she has meets the award criteria. Write-ups should be emailed to danica.wong@telus.net by October 31st. Questions and concerns can also be directed to this email address.

- Danica Wong, Vice-Chair -



MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER-ELECT

I am honoured to serve as the Premier of the 84th BC Youth Parliament. I grew up in the Interior, but moved to Victoria a year ago for work. I will be going into my 5th and final year in BCYP and in the past have held the positions of Interior, External Affairs and Deputy Premier. I had the privilege to run the 15th Western Canada Youth Parliament in Vancouver over May Long Weekend 2012. The event was extremely successful with representation from all four Western Provinces. The members debated the WCYP Act 2012, as well as a number of acts and PMRs written by members.

The upcoming BCYP year will be very unique as Cabinet will not be proposing a major project. It looks like we will have a very low number of returning members in the organization which poses a big problem when it comes to building a Cabinet and running large projects. My plan this year is to gets back to the roots of the organization and run a lot of smaller service projects to engage the membership and attempt to rebuild the returning membership. After all, "service is the key to BCYP". If anyone has any input about projects we could get involved in, please contact me. My email address is sarah.oconnor@bcyp.org. I would love to know of things we were once involved in that we could possibly get involved in once again, as well as new projects.

- Sarah O'Connor, Premier-Elect -

PERSONAL STATEMENT

At the Parliamentary Session in Victoria, Members of BCYP participate in parliamentary debating and plan activities and community service for the upcoming year. During the year, Members are responsible for service and fundraising in their communities, and organize and participate in projects such as Regional Youth Parliaments, fundraising events, community outreach projects, and other service and debating activities.

Please attach a **one-page** personal statement, outlining:

1. Why you would like to be a Member of BCYP;
2. What type of activities you currently are, or intend to become, involved with in your community;
3. Any activities you currently are involved with that relate to debate or public speaking;
4. With reference to the preceding paragraphs, how you believe you can personally contribute to BCYP, including its parliamentary debates and other activities.



YOUTH PARLIAMENT EXPERIENCE

Have you attended BCYP before? Yes No

If yes, do you wish to become a member of the Alumni Society?

Yes No Already on the list

Have you attended a Regional Youth Parliament as a Member or Ambassador?

Yes No If yes, which one(s)? _____

How did you **first** hear about BCYP? (Please choose one option)

- From a teacher From a group leader Saw a poster/brochure (where? _____)
- Through a Regional Youth Parliament From a member or alumnus of BCYP or a RYP
(which one? _____) (name of individual: _____)
- Facebook Other (please specify: _____)

WAIVER

In consideration for acceptance to British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP), the undersigned on behalf of the Applicant and all heirs, executors and administrators, waives any and all claims for damages against BCYP and the Youth Parliament of British Columbia Alumni Society, and their directors, officers, and agents for any and all injuries or loss which the Applicant may suffer during, or in connection with any BCYP Session, trip, or any other activity, or transportation to or from Session or any other activity.

Applicant's Signature: _____

If under 19, Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian Signing: _____

(Applicant should sign even if a parent or guardian is also required to sign.)

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Complete the attached application form and forward it with your personal statement and registration fee to:

Dora Turje, Registrar
208 – 7191 Barnet Road
Burnaby, British Columbia V5A 1E1

Fax: 1-800-858-5303

e-mail: registrar@bcyp.org

Applications must be **received** by **Tuesday, October 23, 2012** by **mail, fax, or e-mail attachment**. Courier or personal deliveries **cannot** be accepted.

REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee for each member is **\$270**. A cheque or money order made payable to the **Youth Parliament of B.C. Alumni Society** must be sent with the application form, or follow a fax or e-mail application as soon as possible (any acceptance is not final until a registration fee is received).

Registration fees will be returned to those not accepted. NSF cheques are subject to a \$10 fee.

Further financial support is available. For more information, please contact Dora Turje, Registrar, **before** the October 23 application deadline. Requests for financial assistance cannot be considered after applicants have been accepted as members.

CANCELLATION

Accepted members who cancel on or before December 12 will receive a refund of their registration fee minus a \$25 cancellation fee, unless travel tickets have been purchased in which case no refund is issued. No refunds will be issued to any member cancelling after December 12.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSOR

British Columbia Youth Parliament is sponsored by the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society, a registered, non-profit organization composed of past members of BCYP.

British Columbia Youth Parliament



Parliamentary Session
December 27 - 31, 2012
Victoria, BC

Information and Application Form

84th Parliament 2012/2013



Financial Assistance Available

WHAT IS BCYP?

British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP) is a youth organization that recognizes every young person's potential to lead and serve in his or her community. Since 1924, BCYP's aim has been to provide a forum in which young people can develop skills in leadership, organization, public speaking, and the parliamentary process, and put these skills into practice through service to youth in their local communities.

BCYP is not affiliated with any political party and is a non-profit organization.

Membership in BCYP begins with attending the Parliamentary Session in Victoria and continues throughout 2013. For detailed information about BCYP's activities, visit our website, www.bcyp.org.

BCYP'S ACTIVITIES

BCYP's year begins with the Parliamentary Session from December 27 – 31, 2012. Members sit in the Legislative Assembly in Victoria and use the parliamentary style of debate to plan educational and service projects, establish BCYP's financial commitments, and amend BCYP's governing legislation.

At Session, Members:

- Meet young people from all over the province;
- Debate Cabinet's legislation which sets out BCYP's activities for 2013;
- Debate current local, national, and international issues;
- Learn about debating and the rules of parliamentary procedure;
- Elect BCYP's Premier, Deputy Speaker, and Leader of the Opposition for the 85th Parliament.

After Session, Members put into action the plans made at Session, which usually include:

- Volunteer service projects in their home communities;
- Regional Youth Parliaments;
- Fundraising events;
- Social activities with other Members.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Each year 95 youth are "elected" to BCYP as representatives of their communities. Each applicant must be nominated by an organization committed to youth (i.e. a school, community group, club or church). Five members of that group must indicate their support by signing the application form.

To be eligible to stand for election you must be:

- Age 16 – 21 (inclusive) as of Dec. 31, 2012;
- A resident of British Columbia for at least 6 of the 12 months prior to Session;
- Nominated by an organization committed to youth;
- Willing to participate in BCYP's activities for one year.

Due to the limited number of seats in the Provincial Legislature, only 95 applicants will be selected to become Members.

SESSIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Accommodations: Accommodation at the Harbour Towers Hotel in Victoria is provided for all Members for the nights of December 27 – 30 (inclusive). Members share rooms, but not beds, with other Members of the same gender.

Transportation: Transportation is included in the registration fee for Members residing outside the Victoria area. Members living in the Interior, North, or North Island will be required to travel on December 26 and January 1.

Meals: Each Member is responsible for the cost of all lunches and dinners in Victoria.

PRE-SESSIONAL INFORMATION

The Registrar will notify all applicants by mail as to their acceptance status in early November. Accepted Members are provided with an orientation package prior to Session and are invited to attend one of the Pre-Sessional Workshops held in different regions of the province. The details of the workshops will be announced in the acceptance letters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Inquiries from applicants, parents and nominating organizations are welcomed. Please contact:

Dora Turje, Registrar
registrar@bcyp.org
604-728-0446 (cell)

APPLICATION FORM – EIGHTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

NAME: _____ GENDER: _____

CURRENT ADDRESS (including temporary/University residence):

STREET / PO BOX: _____ CITY: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ TELEPHONE: (____) _____

E-MAIL: _____ CELL PHONE: (____) _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS (i.e. parents) or STREET ADDRESS if different from above:

STREET / PO BOX: _____ CITY: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ TELEPHONE: (____) _____

TRANSPORTATION TO VICTORIA REQUIRED FROM:

CURRENT/TEMPORARY ADDRESS PERMANENT ADDRESS OTHER: _____

BIRTHDATE: (MM/DD/YYYY) _____ SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY: _____

NOMINATING ORGANIZATION: _____

STREET: _____ CITY: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ TELEPHONE: (____) _____

SIGNATURE OF CONTACT TEACHER / GROUP COORDINATOR: _____

TEACHER / COORDINATOR NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Would you (coordinator) like a copy of the application package each year? (circle) Yes / No / Already on the list

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS/STUDENTS of _____ NOMINATE
(NAME OF ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL)

_____, A MEMBER/STUDENT OF OUR ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL TO SIT AS A BCYP MEMBER.

FIVE NOMINATING SIGNATURES REQUIRED: (other members/students of the organization/school)

	NAME	SIGNATURE	TELEPHONE
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____

Application form must be **RECEIVED** by October 23, 2012.