



The Speaker

YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ALUMNI SOCIETY

Volume 2013
Issue II

84TH PARLIAMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair

Rhonda Vanderfluit [jasrhone@shaw.ca]

Vice-Chair & Assistant Treasurer

Danica Wong [danica.wong@telus.net]

Executive Director & Privacy Officer

Saša Pudar [sasapudar@gmail.com]

Registrar & Chief Returning Officer

Dora Turje [registrar@bcyp.org]

Treasurer & Secretary

Karen Ratchford [karen.ratchford@bcyp.org]

Alumni Affairs Director

Neil Chahal [alumni.affairs@bcyp.org]

Directors-At-Large

Corrigan Cassidy [corrigan.cassidy@gmail.com]

Susie da Silva [susieds@gmail.com]

Swithin d'Souza [swithin@olc.ubc.ca]

Julie Jackson [julie.jackson@inac-ainc.gc.ca]

Jenn Jay [jenn.jay@bcyp.org]

Jeremy McElroy [mcelroyjeremy@gmail.com]

Premier (Ex-officio)

Ambrose Young [premier@bcyp.org]



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I would like to congratulate BCYP's outgoing House Leaders Sarah O'Connor (Premier), Allie Dickson (L of O) and Ambrose Yung (Deputy Speaker) as well as Cabinet and the rest of the BCYP membership on a successful Parliamentary year. This year has been a building year for BCYP, which turned its attention to doing what it does best, and focussed on Regional Youth Parliaments and service. This approach resulted in successful events and a more experienced membership leading into the 85th BCYP.

I am optimistic that BCYP will continue to build on its success. It looks like this year's incoming House Leaders and Cabinet are very strong. The incoming House Leaders are Ambrose Yung (Premier), Nathan How (L of O), who recently won a by-election, and Darya Ali (Deputy Speaker).

It was a pleasure to work with such an energetic group of returning dedicated Senators. I would like to thank all of the directors and officers for all of their hard work over the past year starting with Danica Wong, who was the Vice-Chair and led the Awards Committee, as well as

[continued on page 2]



www.bcyp.org/alumni



BC Youth Parliament Alumni



alumni.affairs@bcyp.org

[MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, continued from page 1]

assisting with BCYP's finances. Karen Ratchford took on both roles as Senate Treasurer and Secretary. Dora Turje served as CRO and Registrar over the past year, and Saša Pudar continued on as Executive Director; both did an outstanding job. We also had many active committee chairs. Corrigan Cassidy served as the Senate representative on the Regional Youth Parliaments Management Committee, and I would also like to thank Aniz Alani, alumnus, for his contribution to that committee. Jenn Jay led the Risk Management Committee, and Swithin D'Souza led the Fundraising Committee, securing our grant with Coast Capital Savings for another year. This generous contribution makes it possible for the Society to keep our registration fees low, enabling more young people to apply to BCYP. I also appreciate the invaluable experience and dedication from Senators Julie Jackson and Susie da Silva who contributed to the success of the past sessional year in a variety of ways.

I would also like to say a special thank you to Neil Chahal who has also done an excellent job as Alumni Affairs Director. Neil will not be continuing on next year so we are looking for a new Alumni Affairs Director. In addition to Neil's vacated position there are also two more spots to fill on Senate. I would like to see us build on the success of the previous year and to fill all available spots with energetic alumni. If you are interested in standing for election to Senate I invite you to attend the AGM on November 16, 2013 at UBC and contact me at jasrhon@shaw.ca for more information.

I would also like to remind alumni to submit a nomination for the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society Award for Outstanding Service. Depending on where the recipient lives, Senate would like to present the next alumni award at the AGM or at Session. 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.

- RHONDA VANDERFLUIT, CHAIR



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

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

Further details to add to the save the date notification of the AGM are as follows:

Saturday, November 16, 2013 at 11:00am
University of BC Meekison Arts Students Space (MASS)
Buchanan D140, 1866 Main Mall

1. Year-end Report of Executive and Committees
2. Approval of Annual Financial Statements
3. Ratification of Activities of Board of Directors
4. Election of new Board of Directors

Senate meeting to follow

If you would like to stand for election to the Board of Directors, please contact Rhonda Vanderfluit at chair@bcyp.org



MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER-ELECT

It is an absolute honour to have been elected Premier of the 85th Session of British Columbia Youth Parliament. This will be my fourth year in the organization. My previous roles have been Critic of Archives and External Affairs of the 83rd BCYP, Critic of Health of the 15th WCYP, and Deputy Speaker and Minister of Community Fundraising, Lower Mainland and Service of the 84th BCYP.

This sessional year, I hope to rebuild our service part of the organization with particular emphasis on reviving our major project, Camp Phoenix. I am in the process of working to organize a camp with an outside organization that specifically works to create camps for children who usually are unable to attend summer camps. With an increasing number of returning members, I hope to ensure that we have enough support from the membership to pursue this project. If any alumnus or alumna have any questions or suggestions, please let me know. I can be contacted at ambrose.yung@bcyp.org.

- AMBROSE YUNG, PREMIER-ELECT



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.

- KAREN RATCHFORD, TREASURER



MESSAGE FROM THE REGISTRAR

Yet again, the calendar has rolled through recruitment season for the upcoming Session of youth parliament. Recruitment efforts got underway in early September, and this year's application deadline was on October 23rd. You should all have received a copy of the application form in September, and I hope some of you were able to pass the form on to young people you know who might be interested in BCYP. I truly appreciate any personal contacts for recruitment you may have been able to make.

For anyone considering making a donation to the Alumni Society, consider the fact that this year's registration fee is \$270. We are lucky to have been able to keep this the same as last year, but it is still almost as high as it has ever gone in previous years (years which had a better economic climate for both our members and the Society). Each year we see increasing numbers of requests for financial assistance, yet our resources for helping applicants afford the costs of participating in BCYP are becoming more limited. Alumni support of the Society allows for the costs of running Session to be reduced, which translates directly into a lower registration fee. If you have any 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



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Shutterstock



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



PROCLAMATION

To our faithful Members elected to serve in the Eighty-Fifth Session of the Sticky Wicket Youth Parliament and to everyone of you.

GREETINGS

WHEREAS former Sticky Wicket Youth Parliaments have made provisions for the consumption of food and drink by hungry and thirsty youth and others in British Columbia, with accompanying chances for commraderie and the development of personal relationships;

WE DO HEREBY COMMAND THAT the Eighty-Fifth Session of the Sticky Wicket Youth Parliament be convened.

In pursuance of this command, we do enjoin each of you that on Saturday, the twenty-eighth day of December, in the year two thousand and thirteen, at the hour of five o'clock and forty-five minutes in the evening, you do meet for the dispatch of business to treat, act, do, and conclude upon those things which relate to the mental, physical, spiritual, and social development of yourself and other alumni desiring of celebrating eighty-five Sessions of Parliament.

- DORA TURJE, UNOFFICIAL ALUMNI EVENT COORDINATOR

In other words... **You're Invited!**

Come celebrate 85 Sessions of Youth Parliament with an informal alumni dinner in Victoria during Session this year! Spouses and families are welcome.

We will meet for dinner at the Sticky Wicket (or other location TBD depending on numbers and the realities of reservations) at **5:45pm** on **Saturday, December 28th**. Other events may spontaneously emerge on an *ad hoc* basis, depending on what people are interested in doing together.

RSVP:

Please RSVP by November 15th to Dora Turje at alumni85@bcyp.org (preferred) or 604-728-0446.

For dinner, please include total numbers, and whether your group is all adults or requires a family-friendly dinner location.

If you would like to stay overnight in Victoria after dinner, rooms at the Harbour Towers Hotel can be booked at our reduced rate. Please contact Dora Turje (see above) for more information, before November 15th.