

The Speaker

The British Columbia Youth Parliament Alumni Society's Official Newsletter

Spring 2002

Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni,

You will find in this newsletter information about BCYP SummerFest, an innovative new fundraising and community service project which BCYP is planning for **July 13, 2002** at **New Brighton Park in Vancouver**.

Because BCYP SummerFest will replace the Auction this year, its success will be particularly important to Parliament's ability to meet its fundraising requirements for Camp Phoenix.

BCYP SummerFest has an enormous potential to be a great success, especially with the full participation and contribution of alumni like yourself. I would urge you to come and be a part of BCYP SummerFest, in order to show your support for the initiative that this year's Parliamentarians have shown in undertaking this new project.

See you at BCYP SummerFest!

Jason Herbert
Chair

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Special Insert:

Invitation to
BCYP SummerFest 2002

BCYP SummerFest

Picking up on the success of the success of the Camp Phoenix Steering Committee (see page 2), the Senate established a joint Senate/BCYP BCYP SummerFest Steering Committee to help BCYP launch its newest project. The committee structure has been successful because it allows those Senators with expertise and experience to mentor Parliamentarians, it allows more regular contact between Senate and Parliament and it makes Senate meetings run more smoothly.

As Jason mentioned, BCYP SummerFest is scheduled **for July 13, 2002** at **New Brighton Park** in Vancouver. An invitation to all alumni and friends is inserted in this issue of The Speaker. As well there is a letter from Chris Lam, Project Coordinator for BCYP SummerFest 2002 and Aniz Alani, Premier. This letter will give you more details about the project itself.

BCYP SummerFest is unique project. It is a fundraiser, a community event and a reunion for BCYP alumni and their whole families. Please come out and show your support. I look forward to seeing you there.

If you would like to donate items for the Silent Auction to be held at BCYP SummerFest or help out in any way with the project please contact Chris Lam (604) 825-8682.

Rhonda Vanderfluit, Chair BCYP SummerFest Steering Committee

Camp Phoenix: The new Steering Committee approach

In the past two years, volunteer organizations who provide services to children were reminded of the need to carefully screen volunteers and ensure that the organization's practices provide a safe and secure environment for children. Parents became more assertive in questioning agencies about their policies. In response to this development and with the agreement of Parliament, the Senate has become more involved with the supervision of Camp Phoenix.

In May 2000, the Board established the Camp Steering Committee, a joint committee of four Senators and four Parliamentarians with a twofold purpose. First, the CSC is a resource for the Minister of Camp Phoenix who may bring questions and requests for advice to the CSC with respect to the organization and management of Camp. Second, the CSC has established deadlines by which certain tasks must be done and certain documents provided to the CSC for review. For example, all material which is distributed to parents, be it the application form, health form or letters confirming acceptance, is reviewed by the CSC before distribution. Another example is that the schedule and menu for Camp is reviewed and approved by August 1. The Senators on the CSC conduct reference checks of all potential staff members. The CSC approves the appointment of the Camp Administrator and Camp Director following an interview. The Training Manual is approved and a Senator and the Camp Director must attend all of Training. These are only a few examples of the areas which the CSC monitors.

The CSC meets once every six to eight weeks as required by the schedule of deadlines and the needs of the Minister. John Baatz, Robyn Marshall, Rhonda Vanderfluit and I have represented Senate on the Committee for the past two years. Minutes are kept of all meetings and distributed to Senate and reports are made at each Senate meeting.

Our intention is certainly not to "run Camp" and, as the Ministers can attest, the Committee does not, nor does it become involved with the details of the camp program or make arrangements for the site, transportation or supplies. The Committee provides a structure for the Minister to follow and gives him or her an opportunity to raise issues of potential risk in advance of Camp and receive guidance to minimize and/or respond to that risk. Senate is far more aware of what goes on at camp than it was previously and the Society is better protected should we be called to account for the policies and practices of Camp Phoenix.

The CSC frequently calls upon Alumni to assist or provide guidance in particular areas. Lynda Fraser has provided information and ideas for training and the Camp Director. Ken Millard is this year's Camp Director. Their efforts, and those of several more, help the CSC to provide support to Parliament for the continued success of Camp Phoenix. It is of great assistance to the CSC members to be able to email or phone an alumnus to answer a question, provide a name of a potential cook, or provide a recollection of why a particular policy was developed in the first instance.

Camp Phoenix is always in need of potential Camp Directors, nurses, cooks, and waterfront directors and the CSC also needs a reminder of which alumni have volunteer or professional experience with children, risk management, and camping, particularly your current experience. If you would like more information about the CSC and its activities, or are willing to respond to the occasional email or have contacts in any of the camp-related areas or would be happy to volunteer for any of the noted positions or at training, please email me at kerrysimmons@hotmail.com or telephone me at 250-380-2761.

Kerry Simmons, Chair Camp Phoenix Steering Committee

Alumni Update:

Since I am just filling in for the Alumni Affairs director for this issue, I did not get a chance to get submissions from alumni regarding their comings and goings. To put your update in the next issue, please send in the Alumni Update Form on the next page. In the meantime, here is an update for some people who I happen to be in contact with.

The Lawyer Crowd:

Davis & Company in Vancouver is turning into Parliament Central. As many of you may know, **Jason Herbert** (L of O 62nd Session) and **Dean Crawford** (L of O 60th Session, Premier 61st Session) have been there for some time. New Parliament recruits include:

Miranda Lam (Deputy Speaker 71st BCYP) who just graduated as Valedictorian of her UBC Law class will be joining Davis & Company after completing PLTC and a year clerking for the BC Supreme Court.

Ruby Chan (member 65th Session) will join Davis & Company as a new articling student after PLTC (That's the bar admission course for you non lawyer types)

Karin Yeung (Premier 67th BCYP) is a new summer student at Davis & Co.

As for the former Davis & Company crowd:

Russ Brown (Minister of Education 57th Session) is going to be doing a LLM at the University of Toronto in the fall. What a fine school. Good luck Russ!

Chilwin Cheng (L of O 65th Session) is now working at Anderson and Galati practicing Commercial and Securities Litigation.

And now for some non-Davis lawyer types:

Sean Vanderfluit (Premier 60th Session) was called to the bar on March 15 of this year and is working as an associate at Clark Wilson.

Victor Tuomi (Deputy Speaker 65th Session) is working as in-house council for Ballard Energy Corporation in Burnaby.

People doing fun and interesting stuff: (Besides law)

Erin Lemon (Premier 63rd Session) put in a sub 4 hour time at the Ottawa Marathon last month.

Chilwin Cheng also ran his second Vancouver Marathon.

Miranda Duffy (Minister of PR 62nd Session) has returned from her two years at theatre school in London England and is currently performing in **The Queens** at the Jericho Arts Centre.

Ken Smith (L of O 58th Session) & **Cathy Smith née Birch** (Premier 58th Session) have just moved their family to New York City for a year and a half where Ken has been working since September.

Katie Longworth (Premier 70th BCYP) has been accepted to UBC Medical School for the fall.

People having babies:

Parliament alumni are breeding! I fear that if I start mentioning them here I will either forget someone or make a mistake. I also know of at least two Parliament alumni who are expecting a baby but I don't think they want me telling everyone yet. If there are any of you who would like to take responsibility for bringing future Parliamentarians into the world, please let The Speaker know and we will put an announcement in the next newsletter.

Rhonda Vanderfluit

Alumni Update Form/Change of address form

Name: _____

Session/Former Position: _____

Your news/ new address: _____

Please mail this form to: **The Youth Parliament Alumni Society** Or email me at:
c/o Rhonda Vanderfluit
#502 – 819 Hamilton St
Vancouver, BC V6B 6M2 **jasrhon@shaw.ca**

The Alumni Society Needs Your Support!

For decades, the Youth Parliament 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.

Alumni contributions to BCYP, such as participation in BCYP SummerFest are of tremendous help to keep initiatives like Camp Phoenix alive, we hope to see you there!

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 Alumni Society ensures that young people from around the province can participate in an organization that benefits not only themselves but also their community.

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 Sang-Kiet Ly, Treasurer
2546 Scott Street
Victoria, BC V8R 4H7

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount: \$ _____



June 10, 2002

Dear Alumni:

As Premier of the 73rd Parliament, it is my pleasure to invite you to attend BCYP's newest and largest family event, BCYP SummerFest 2002, on Saturday, July 13 at New Brighton Park in Vancouver. BCYP SummerFest is an all-ages event and an excellent chance to meet fellow alumni while sharing in the successes of today's young Parliamentarians.

BCYP SummerFest features many attractions sure to enchant guests of all ages including midway games, a mini-golf course, a crafts tent, live entertainment, great food, a cakewalk contest, and a silent auction packed with exciting items for the whole family! All the funds raised at BCYP SummerFest support BCYP's ambitious service projects including Camp Phoenix, a summer camp for first-time campers being held for the 34th year.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an invitation including a voucher for complimentary game tickets redeemable at BCYP SummerFest. We hope to see you and your family at this exciting event! Be sure to visit the BCYP display centre to find out more about the many projects and activities members are working on in communities throughout the province. From Camp Phoenix to Regional Youth Parliaments, and from group fundraising projects to community relations, BCYP continues to be an action-packed organization promoting youth service and leadership development. We look forward to sharing the fruits of our labour with you at BCYP SummerFest!

For more information about BCYP's current activities, please visit our web site at www.bryp.org. We warmly welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please feel free to contact me by phone at (604) 773-3537 or by email at premier@bryp.org if you have any ideas or comments to share with Parliamentarians.

See you at BCYP SummerFest!

Sincerely,

Aniz Alani
Premier & Attorney General
73rd British Columbia Youth Parliament