

The Speaker



The Youth Parliament of British Columbia Alumni Society's Official Newsletter Spring 2003

Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni,

As you will read in this issue of *The Speaker*, plans have now commenced for an alumni reunion event to celebrate the upcoming 75th British Columbia Youth Parliament, to be held during Session in Victoria in December. This promises to be an excellent opportunity for alumni to reconnect with old friends, and relive the Youth Parliament experience. We're hoping for an excellent turnout to mark this milestone in BCYP/OBP history!

In the meantime, you can get a head start on the celebrations by coming out to BCYP's Sweet Dreams Dessert and Auction on June 14th. If you haven't already received an invitation, you will find information about the Auction in this issue of *The Speaker*. Make sure to come out and join this year's Parliamentarians as they bring back this amazing event – it's going to be a great evening you won't want to miss!

Best wishes to everyone,

Jason Herbert
Chair

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Tickets are on sale for the **Sweet Dreams Dessert and Auction 2003** which will be held at the Coast Plaza Suite Hotel in downtown Vancouver on June 14th. Please join us for a night of sweets, great music, and wonderful items to bid on! Some of the featured packages this year are: **2 nights accommodation at Hotel Georgia including two full buffet breakfasts, whale watching packages, entertainment & fine dining packages and a weekend getaway at a Whistler resort.**

Doors will open at 6:45pm, to be followed by a silent auction at 7pm, dessert buffet at 8pm and live auction at 9pm. Tickets are \$27 each, two for \$50 or a table of eight for \$200. This is a great chance to catch up on BCYP's activities and reunite with fellow alumni.

To purchase tickets or for more information, please contact:

Dorothy Wong, Minister of Community Fundraising
604-787-8288

communityfundraising@bcyp.org

Board of Directors Update:

It has been brought to my attention that alumni need to be more connected to the activities of the Board of Directors or the Senate. To start that process I would like to introduce you to the current Board of Directors and invite you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

The Board of Directors or the Senate has several main functions which include organizing BCYP's annual parliamentary session, managing and assessing the risks facing the Alumni Society arising from BCYP's activities, monitoring BCYP activities and providing mentorship by acting as liaisons with BCYP's cabinet and maintaining contact with the members of the Alumni Society.

Sarah Bonner (52 nd – 57 th) Executive Director	sarah_bonner@hotmail.com
Jason Herbert (60 th – 63 rd) Chair	jherbert@davis.ca
Chris Lam (70 th – 74 th) Premier	premier@bcyp.org
Sang-Kiet Ly (65 th – 69 th) Treasurer	sly@kpmg.ca
Beatrice McCutcheon (64 th – 68 th) Vice-Chair	bmccutcheon@pacificcoast.net
Simon Philp (59 th – 61 st) Secretary	
Kerry Simmons (62 nd – 65 th) Chief Returning Officer	kerrysimmons@hotmail.com
Rhonda Vanderfluit (57 th – 62 nd) Registrar & Alumni Affairs	jasrhon@shaw.ca
John Baatz (53 rd – 55 th , 57 th & 58 th)	jbaatz@canada.com
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Ajay Puri (73 rd)	apuri112@yahoo.com
Victor Tuomi (64 th – 65 th)	vtuomi@hotmail.com

I would love to tell you about each and every member on the board but since space will not allow me to do that I would like to tell you about two of our hard working Executive members.

Sarah Bonner has served on Senate since 1990 as the Executive Director. While a member during the 52nd - 57th Sessions, she held the portfolios of Sessional Affairs, Island, Deputy Speaker and Press Secretary. Sarah participated in the Legislative Internship Program and now serves as the Managing Director of the BC Government Caucus. She has been married to Patrick Weir for 14 years and they have an amazing daughter, Annika. Her interests include traveling and photography.

Kerry Simmons is the current Chief Returning Officer and she served on Senate in 1995 and 1996 and since 1999. She is the Chair of the Camp Steering Committee and has previously served as Secretary and Vice-Chair. While in BCYP from the 62 - 65th Sessions, Kerry held the portfolios of Publications, Public Relations, Deputy Premier, Camp Phoenix and was the Premier of the 65th Session. Kerry has clerked at Session and served as Media Secretary. She was the Camp Director in 1995 and 2001. Kerry is a lawyer at Cook Roberts in Victoria and when she is not at work, she is an "enforcer" on the Stingers Women's Rec Ice Hockey Team.

75th Session Celebration

Thanks to everyone who sent in responses to the BCYP/OBP 75th Session Celebration questionnaire. There were some great ideas and even better a show of support to organize the event.

The Board of Directors of the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society or BCYP's Senate has struck a committee that has representatives from the current Board of Directors, alumni members and current Parliamentarians. The committee is working hard with the Board of directors to hold an event that reaches out to the entire alumni society's membership and the rest of the BCYP/OBP alumni.

The committee met this month and had some exciting ideas for hosting an event that would bring alumni together to celebrate the 75th British Columbia Youth Parliament Session.

The committee decided to host a reunion event in Victoria during some time during BCYP's 75th Session (December 27 to 31, 2003). The event will be open to all BCYP/OBP alumni, family and friends. I am confident that this hardworking and skilled committee will work together to plan a successful and memorable event. Look for details about the event in the next issue of *The Speaker* coming out at the end of the summer 2003.

Anyone interested in working on the committee helping to plan the event please contact me at 604-646-6623 or alumni@bcyp.org.

Thanks,

Rhonda Vanderfluit
Alumni Affairs Director and Chair 75th Anniversary Committee

Report from the Treasurer:

It is my pleasure to provide the alumni with an update regarding the finances of the alumni society. The society is responsible for organizing the annual youth parliament session held in Victoria between December 27 - 31. The direct cost of hosting session is approximately \$24,000, while other costs including insurance totals \$5,500. Thus, the Society incurs annual expenses of \$29,500.

In 2002 the Society charged a travel pool of \$220 per member which generated about \$19,000 in revenue. In addition, the Society receives an annual distribution from the Walter S. Owen Fund which is held at the Vancouver Foundation. This year, the distribution totaled \$12,500; however, the Society has been informed by the Vancouver Foundation that future distributions will fall to about \$9,000 due to the continued poor returns from global stock markets.

The Senate recognizes that the travel pool of \$220 restricts participation in Youth Parliament. Currently, there are three full travel pool subsidies available to prospective members of Youth Parliament. We would like to expand the number of full and partial subsidies to ensure that the Youth Parliament experience remains accessible to all. Your financial support helps us with this goal.

Please feel free to contact me at 250 480-3527 or by email at sly@kpmg.ca if you have any questions regarding the finances of the Society.

Best regards,

Sang-Kiet Ly

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Treasurer

BCYP Update:

The last issue of *The Speaker* included a letter from this year's Premier Chris Lam which updated alumni on the 74th BCYP Session and the activities planned for the upcoming year. In this issue I would like to highlight some of the people who contributed to making the 73rd BCYP Sessional year such a success and introduce to you the key players for the 75th Parliament.

In this and the next issue of *The Speaker* I will also highlight two of BCYP's major ongoing projects. In this issue I would like to tell you about the evolution of Regional Youth Parliaments and the next issue will focus on Camp Phoenix.

2002 BCYP Award Recipients

Most alumni are likely aware of two of the four major awards that are given out to deserving members for their outstanding contributions to BCYP but many may not be aware of the two relatively new awards that have been created since I was a member. Because I believe that recognizing success is important to the strength of any organization I wanted to highlight BCYP's four major awards and introduce the alumni society to last year's winners. Although two of the awards are not necessarily presented every year all four awards were presented at the 74th British Columbia Youth Parliament's Session. The criteria for the awards appears every year in the Journal along with a full list of past award winners. The awards themselves are also on permanent display in the BCYP display case at the BC Legislature.

Jack Diep – Youth Parliament Bond Shield

Since 1963, Members of the BC Youth Parliament have been recognized for exemplary work in raising the funds needed to carry out Parliament's projects through the awarding of the Bond Shield.

Jack Diep of Prince Rupert raised \$1548.45. He received a sponsorship from a local credit union for his travel to and from Camp Phoenix. In addition he went door to door to raise the remainder of his donations. Jack has carried on the fine tradition of Bond Shield winners from the Pacific Northwest.

Caitlin Tom – Terasen Inspiring New Member

This is BCYP's newest award created in 1997 by the cabinet of the 68th Session and was initiated by the desire on the part of BC Gas to sponsor an award for BC Youth Parliament.

The Terasen (formerly BC Gas) Inspiring New Member Award recognizes the first year member who made exceptional contributions to the service and fundraising activities of the British Columbia Youth Parliament during their first year in the organization.

Caitlin Tom is a Grade 12 student at Point Grey Secondary in Vancouver. She has been a dedicated and enthusiastic member since she applied to BCYP in the fall of 2001. She prepared an entry for the "BCYP Scavenger Hunt", which tests members' abilities to research information contained within the pre-sessional package. Caitlin attended pre-sessional service projects including a fundraiser for UNICEF during Halloween. After Session, Caitlin served as a Minister of State. She diligently participated in the Vancouver Sun Run, the BCYP retreat in Whistler, and the RYP/AG workshop, the preparation for BCYP SummerFest 2002. She also was one of the cabin leaders for the youngest girls at Camp Phoenix.

Caitlin continues to share her remarkable dedication to Youth Parliament this year. She is this year's Provincial Secretary. She has raised over \$500 in donations and provided storage space for all of the SummerFest games. Her nominators described her as "patient", "caring", "impressive", and "remarkable". Youth Parliament has benefited tremendously from Caitlin's efforts.

Nicole Stewart – Fisi Award for Service

This award recognizes exemplary dedication to serving the youth of British Columbia under Youth Parliament's name. The award was created in November of 1991 during the 63rd Session in memory of Monica Fisi who passed away in October of 1990 after a long battle with Leukemia. Monica represented the epitome of what this organization stands for - service to one another. Monica will always be remembered for her selfless attitude and her willingness to give; therefore this award is dedicated to her memory.

Nicole Stewart is currently a distance education student at SFU who splits her time between Vancouver and Creston. Last year, however, she was in Grade 12 in Creston and served as Minister of the Interior. Not only did she help organize BCYP projects for all members from the interior, she also committed over 100 hours of her own time to various volunteer causes. The Canadian Cancer Society, AIDS research, peer tutoring, coaching soccer, the 30 hour famine, student council - all organizations that benefited from Nicole's hard work.

Nicole continues to support all aspects of Youth Parliament. This year she is Minister of Camp Phoenix but her contributions have extended far beyond that. Nicole's warm and caring personality make working with her a pleasure.

Julia Lockhart – Donald Fergus Paynter Memorial Award for Leadership

Members of the OBP established this award in Don's memory to recognize individuals who have distinguished themselves by their outstanding leadership in Youth Parliament. Prior to 1991, the award was also known as the "Parliamentarian of the Year Award". From 1992 to 1998, it was known as the "Paynter Award for Enduring Contributions to Parliament".

The Paynter Award may, at Senate's discretion be given to a member of the previous Session of the Youth Parliament who, during his or her years of membership:

- Has demonstrated both exceptional leadership and noteworthy dedication to all aspects of Parliament's activities; and
- Has made contributions which either are substantially in excess of that expected through the normal course of activities, or which because of their innovative nature, are likely to have an enduring impact.

In her first year in BCYP, Julia joined cabinet and served as Provincial Secretary. Throughout her first year, Julia distinguished herself among her peers through her exceptional dedication to several Youth Parliament activities. In recognition of her exemplary contributions, Julia was honoured with the BC Gas Inspiring New Member Award.

In her second year, Julia was appointed Minister of Finance and Provincial Secretary. She handled the responsibilities of both ministries exceptionally well, which is no small feat considering the fact that the demands of the Ministry of Finance are often reserved for more "senior" members.

Aside from her Cabinet duties, Julia contributed to virtually every aspect of BCYP. She was a Cabin Leader at Camp Phoenix. She was Assistant Project Coordinator for BCYP SummerFest 2002.

She participated in the Western Canada Youth Parliament in Winnipeg, Manitoba, as the only BCYP member who would still be eligible to return to BCYP next year when BC hosts the inter-provincial youth parliament. At Westerns, Julia fulfilled the role of a parliamentary secretary

As Assistant Project Coordinator for BCYP SummerFest 2002, Julia was given numerous administrative responsibilities. She dedicated an inordinate amount of time assisting in some vital areas of project planning that are best described as menial and generally unattractive. I suppose on some level members who agree to accept responsibilities devoid of glamour might be said to merit a "follower's award" instead of an award for leadership. In reality, it is the members who take on responsibilities behind the scenes, virtually assured to be skipped over when credit is ultimately given, whose sense of teamwork demonstrates the true meaning of leadership. They are the *de facto* leaders whose contributions far exceed that which one might expect from merely glancing at their titles. Julia is one such individual.

Too often, BCYP members allow themselves to be intimidated by their own inexperience. If something doesn't seem right, there's a tendency to resort to the default position that assumes someone else is taking care of it. "It will get

done; don't worry about it." If there were actually an award for the best "follower", it could go to any one of a number of members who dutifully carry out their own tasks while leaving everything beyond their personal responsibility to be attended to by someone else. Julia's leadership stems from her willingness to think outside of the box and concern herself with the organization as a whole. Real leadership in BCYP is about more than taking leadership of an isolated set of responsibilities; it's about taking ownership as a member of the organization itself.

This year as Attorney General (among other things), Julia has acted as the main liaison between Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet. As Leader of the Opposition, Julia's leadership skills have continued to benefit BCYP. Her professionalism and flexibility has allowed Shadow Cabinet to work extensively with Cabinet prior to Session in order to discuss and resolve issues in an effective manner.

BCYP House Leaders Elect – 75th Parliament

Mr. Yuk-Sing Cheng of Port Coquitlam was elected **Premier** of the 75th Parliament. Mr. Cheng, will enter his final year of BCYP at age 21 this December. Presently, Mr. Cheng serves as the Deputy Premier, Minister of Corporate Relations and Minister of State (Internet Affairs).

Ms. Kristin Fung, 20, of Vancouver was elected **Leader of the Opposition** after a hotly contested election. Ms. Fung will enter her 5th year of BCYP. She is the current Minister of Education responsible for the youth essay contest.

The **Deputy Speaker** will be **Ms. Danica Wong** of Vancouver. Ms. Wong is the current Minister of Regional Youth Parliaments and will begin her 3rd year in BCYP. She is 19 years old.

The Senate looks forward to working with the House Leaders of the 75th Parliament.

Regional Youth Parliaments: Sixteen Years Later

with thanks to Danica Wong, Kerry Simmons, Aniz Alani and Sean Vanderfluit

Recognizing the desire to expose more young British Columbians to the Youth Parliament experience, BCYP in 1987 began to develop the concept of a regional youth parliament ("RYP"). A weekend parliament for 14 - 18 year olds, RYPs were intended to educate more young people about parliamentary procedure and traditions, in addition to those selected to attend BCYP. RYPs have continued to serve this purpose and have also developed into a source of potential BCYP members.

The first Kootenay Youth Parliament was held as a pilot project in 1987, and was followed in 1988 by RYPs held throughout the province including Thompson Okanagan, Pacific Northwest, Vancouver Island, North Shore, New Westminster Coquitlam Burnaby, and Vancouver. RYPs were originally the responsibility of BCYP's Deputy Premier. RYP members debated legislation and private member's resolutions. Some RYPs hosted other events, both service and social, throughout the year; others held successful annual sessions only.

The administration and organization of RYPs has evolved over the past sixteen years. The Minister of Regional Affairs from the BCYP is now charged with the responsibility of overseeing RYPs. There is a joint Senate-Parliament committee, the Regional Youth Parliament Management Committee (RYPMC), which issues a "charter" to each RYP that wishes to host a session. To receive a charter, an applicant must detail how the RYP will be organized, provide a budget, and satisfy the committee that there is a reasonable prospect that an RYP may be held in a given region. After session, the RYPMC reviews the legislation and resolutions passed in the same manner that Senate reviews BCYP's legislation and resolutions. The forty-page Regional Youth Parliament Manual assists members to organize an RYP right down to the financial accountability of each RYP. RYPs no longer open bank accounts and manage

their own finances. While RYPs are responsible for establishing a budget and monitoring expenses, all funds are held by BCYP and administered by BCYP's Minister of Finance.

The success of an RYP depends greatly on those organizing the RYP and the ability to recruit members to the event. Each year, BCYP determines which RYPs can be held given the location of BCYP members in the province. If there are no BCYP members from the area, it is difficult for those outside the region to successfully organize the RYP. Depending on the year, any of the Vancouver, Vancouver Island, Kootenay, Thompson-Okanagan, Lower Mainland East, North Shore, Surrey or Northern BC Youth Parliaments may be held.

The only RYP held continuously is the **Vancouver Youth Parliament**. This year's 16th Parliament was held from February 21 - 23 in the Neville Scarfe Building at UBC with 44 members in attendance. At the first VYP, members came from Vancouver, Richmond, Surrey, Delta, Langley and White Rock. Today the geographical regions are limited to Vancouver, Richmond and Delta. The agenda for the year includes gathering for social events and supporting BCYP's service projects through participation in those events. VYP's website can be accessed from BCYP's website.

The 12th **North Shore Youth Parliament** (including Whistler, the Sunshine Coast and Squamish) at the North Vancouver District Hall occurred February 28 - March 2 with 24 members. As with all RYPs, members of the alumni association are often asked to participate as the Lieutenant Governor, Speaker or Sessional Director. Rhonda Vanderfluit served as Speaker at the session. Members of NSYP participate in a North Shore cleanup, the Relay for Life and a food drive. The NSYP website can be accessed from BCYP's website.

The **Kootenay Youth Parliament** occurred at Prince Charles Secondary School in Creston on May 2 - 4 with 17 members. This session was the third year in a row KYP has occurred after an absence of sessions between 1995 and 2000. KYP's status is a model parliament which differs from a "full status" parliament in that there is no expectation that members will pass legislation committing themselves to activities between sessions.

The 15th **Vancouver Island Youth Parliament** returned this year after a one year's absence. Held in the Moot Courtroom of the University of Victoria's Faculty of Law, 22 members from Coal Harbour to Victoria participated at VIYP from May 2 - 4 with alumnus Victor Tuomi as Speaker. BCYP membership from the Island has fallen drastically in recent years with the result that there are no members permanently resident in Victoria and the 7 members from the Island are all new to BCYP. With a number of alumni from Victoria with the contacts and experience necessary to run the event, BCYP agreed to allow Sang-Kiet Ly, Bea McCutcheon, Simon Philp and Kerry Simmons to organize VIYP so the Island members could experience an RYP and more youth would be learn about Youth Parliament and hopefully join BCYP in December. Senate intends to capitalize on the contacts made here to recruit more Island members.

Thompson-Okanagan and Lower Mainland East Youth Parliaments were last held in 2001. **Northern B.C. Youth Parliament** last occurred in 2000.

As is evident by this report, RYPs continue to be an important part of the BCYP experience. They are also activities which require Senate's attention to maintain the safety of members and protect the Society. For example, this year Senate developed and approved a consent and waiver form to be signed by parents when the RYP provides transportation between RYP events. These and other concerns are addressed by Senate through its risk management committee and the RYPMC.

If you would like more information about RYPs or know of students who would like to participate in next year's RYPs, please contact Danica Wong, Minister of Regional Youth Parliaments at danica.wong@bcyp.org. If you have suggestions or inquiries about Senate's responsibilities with RYPs, please contact Robyn Marshall at mmarshall@interchange.ubc.ca or Victor Tuomi at vtuomi@hotmail.com.

Alumni Update Form/Change of address form

Name: _____

Session/Former Position: _____

Your news/ new address: _____

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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 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 the **Sweet Dreams Auction** 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 parliamentary **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.

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: \$ _____