

The Speaker



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

Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni,

In this issue of *The Speaker*, you will find information about the Sweet Dreams Dessert and Auction which is planned for June 14, 2003. This event will be a tremendous opportunity to meet the current crop of Parliamentarians, renew contact with fellow alumni, enjoy a fabulous dessert buffet, find great deals on an array of auction items and packages, and contribute to BCYP's efforts to raise funds for Camp Phoenix and its other projects. I strongly encourage all alumni to attend, especially if you haven't been to the Dessert and Auction before—and don't hesitate to bring along family and friends! It promises to be a great evening!

You will also find a questionnaire in this issue about a 75th Anniversary Celebration. Senate has decided to canvas alumni, to find out what kind of an event you would like to have to mark this milestone for our organization. We are also counting on alumni to lend their time and support to planning and organizing an anniversary event. It is very important that you complete and return this questionnaire as soon as possible, so that planning for the 75th anniversary can get underway!

Best wishes to everyone,

Jason Herbert
Chair

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The **Sweet Dreams Dessert and Auction 2003** 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! One of our featured packages this year is a *Two Nights Accomodation at Hotel Georgia including Two Full Buffet Breakfasts*, well worth over \$400. Doors will open at 7pm, to be followed by a silent auction, and dessert will soon follow. For more information, please contact Dorothy Wong, Minister of Community Fundraising, at 604-787-8288. Tickets will go on sale in early March, so be sure to be watching your mailbox for an invitation!

Dorothy Wong
Minister of Community Fundraising
74th BC Youth Parliament

Message from the Premier:

Dear friends,

First of all, I would like to congratulate each one of you for keeping in touch with the Youth Parliament movement. Each year, we have tried to build upon each of our own successes and trials to improve this organization that we have come to love. I can assure each of you that this year is no different.

In this the 74th year of development, British Columbia Youth Parliament is as strong as it has ever been. This year, we will be focusing on making the projects we have done well even better and involving you, the alumni, in as much of it as possible. The legislative week for the 74th session concluded with the beginning of the new year. Over the week, ninety-three members from all across the province debated the merits and issues concerning the Youth Parliament and youth in general. These topics ranged from the operations of running a dessert auction and the continuation of Camp Phoenix, to the current events including safe injection sites and the 2010 Vancouver Olympic bid. All topics were debated with intelligence, reverence, and passion. By the end of the week, every member was prepared to return to their home communities ready to make a difference in society as a more enriched youth of our province.

That being stated, I am very pleased to inform you of two major highlights that we can look forward to together. The first will be the return of Sweet Dreams Dessert and Auction on June 14th at the Coast Plaza Suite Hotel at Stanley Park. This glamorous night will be a dessert buffet with a silent and live auction. Items to date include autographed Vancouver Canuck memorabilia and hotel packages. Each of you will be formally invited to this prestigious event, and we are counting on your support to make this a success. This event will serve as the primary fundraiser for Camp Phoenix. If you would like more information, or would like to help us in any way, feel free to contact me at anytime.

The second highlight is the continuation of Camp Phoenix, a summer camp for children who have social or financial needs. This project began over thirty years ago and it gives me great pride to recognize that Camp Phoenix remains an integral part not only to our organization, but to the lives of children and families each year. Thank you to each one of you who had a hand in evolving Project Phoenix. It has given us the chance today to fulfill our motto of "Youth Serving Youth" in the greatest possible way.

Thank you all again for bringing us as far as we have come. I look forward to meeting each of you in some capacity and sincerely hope you will continue to support the Youth Parliament this year with Sweet Dreams and Camp Phoenix.

Yours in Parliament,
Chris Lam
Premier, 74th British Columbia Youth Parliament
Chris.lam@bcyp.org
604-825-8682



Is it me or are Youth Parliamentarians getting younger every year?

75th Anniversary Celebration

As many of you know BCYP/OBP will be celebrating its 75th Session in December of this year. We would like to celebrate this anniversary Session with an alumni celebration but we need your help. First, Senate would like to know what type of event alumni would like to participate in and second we would like some help organizing the event. Please fill out the enclosed questionnaire and send it in as soon as possible.

Alumni Update:

I received the following update by email:

Hey there! I am not sure who out there will remember me, but I was lucky enough to take part in a few of the Youth Parliaments in BC when I attended Lester B. Pearson College just outside Victoria between 1996-1998.

I was a bit unusual in that I was not Canadian! You might instead remember a Welsh/British guy who was a friend of Ashley Morton's - if that's any help! I was at VIYP in fall 1996, and also VYP in the following spring as an Ambassador, was A-G and Deputy Premier at VIYP the next fall (1997) and finally made it to BCYP that Christmas/New Year (if I remember rightly Sang was Premier) as Opposition Whip/Critic, and then was Deputy Speaker at VYP the following spring (1998), before sadly departing Canadian shores that May.

Since then, I did my undergrad (in Politics unsurprisingly!) at Oxford University, England and then worked for a year for members of the Welsh National Assembly, and an MP in the British House of Commons, before coming up to Scotland to start a Masters in International Security Studies at the University of St Andrews. Have continued my long association with the Labour Party in various guises - so the political thing is still going on!

Have great memories of all the YPs, and would love to hear from anyone who remembers me. Names that spring to mind are Ryan Cook, Alison Meynert, Royce Coop, and of course any of the Premiers/etc. I knew from any of the sessions...too many to list here - basically anyone who was at VYP, VIYP or BCYP when I was there. If you do - drop me a line at stephen.doughty@uwc.net.

All the best, and glad to see BCYP is still doing well!

Stephen Doughty

Thanks to everyone who sent in address updates in response to the missing alumni list published in the Fall Speaker. Despite everyone's best efforts, there are still a large number of missing alumni. I will be posting the list of missing alumni names on the BCYP website (www.bcup.org) so people can contact me to update their information.

Thanks,

Rhonda Vanderfluit
Alumni Affairs Director

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**

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 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 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: \$ _____

BCYP/OBP 75th Anniversary Questionnaire

When do you think the 75th Anniversary Celebration should take place?

- a. During Session (December 27 – 31, 2003)
- b. After Session in conjunction with BCYP's Auction
- c. A separate alumni event during the Sessional year. If so when?

- d. Have two events, one during Session and one during the Sessional year

Should the Anniversary Celebration be a fundraiser?

Yes No

BCYP held an alumni model parliament (XYP) during the 60th and 70th Sessions. Do you think we should do this again for the 75th Session or should we try something new?

Would you be willing to sit on a 75th Anniversary Planning Committee? The committee is chaired by myself and will meet approximately once per month. Most meetings will happen in the evening or on the weekend in Vancouver.

Would you be willing to volunteer to assist with organizing the event itself? If so, when are you available and what skills would you be able to contribute?

Are you interested in helping out with the Fundraising Committee described in the Fall 2002 issue of the Speaker?

Please email your responses to alumni@bcyp.org
or mail in this form to:

Rhonda Vanderfluit
#502 – 819 Hamilton Street
Vancouver, BC
V6B 6M2

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone #: _____