

# MR SPEAKER

Fall 2006  
77<sup>th</sup> Session, Issue 2

*News from the Youth Parliament of Alumni Society of BC*

## Message from the Chair

By Kerry Simmons

I am pleased to introduce our Session Organization team for the upcoming Session. As you know, we rely on three key volunteers who take on the lion's share of work in preparing for Session. Our new appointees have strong organizational skills and have been waiting and training in the wings to assume these roles. Dora Turje is our Registrar and has distributed application forms and information about BCYP to all of our contacts. If you have in mind someone who should apply to join BCYP, please provide them with an application form, direct them to the form at [www.bcup.org](http://www.bcup.org) or have them contact Dora at 604-728-0446.

Co-ordinating the selection of members and the supervising during Session will be our Chief Returning Officer, Jennifer Jay. Julia Lockhart takes over as Executive Director and will co-ordinate all the logistics of the Session at the Legislature and at the hotel. The Board appreciates that these people have volunteered their time in this significant way to ensure the continued success of the annual session.

I invite you to attend the Society's Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 18, 2006 at 10:00 am in Room 209 of the Scarfe Building at the University of British Columbia. At the meeting, we will review the work of the Board during the year and elect the next Board of Directors. The strength of the Alumni Society depends heavily upon the skills, interests and

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time of the Board members. If you would like to put your name forward to join the Board of Directors, would like to assist the Board in another capacity, or you have any questions or comments about the Board's activities, please feel free to contact me at [kerrysimmons@hotmail.com](mailto:kerrysimmons@hotmail.com) or 250-480-9145.

This year Jason Herbert steps down from the Board after 12 years of Service on Senate. Among the many contributions he has made to the Alumni Society, I want to highlight the years between 1999 and 2004 when Jason was chair of the Board. He was very skilled in involving and accommodating differing views expressed by the directors while advancing us through our meeting objectives. The Society has benefited from Jason's clarity of thought and his dedication to the objectives of the Society. We wish Jason well as he furthers his career at Davis & Co and enjoys more time with Rhonda and their daughter Zara.

Kerry Simmons  
Chair, Board of Directors

## 77<sup>th</sup> BCYP in Review

By Emilie-Anne Paul

Happy Fall!

I am pleased to report to all Alumni that we have had some of the most successful membership participation in the past five years. With over 20 group projects in the Lower Mainland alone we managed to provide ample room for every member to participate. 47 members met their donation total, 66 turned in their ISPs, over 33 staff attended Camp Phoenix, and 33 passed membership review out of 80 members that is incredible participation. Auction raised almost \$6000 and we managed to send 51 kids to camp.

I am proud of this last year and I want to thank you all for your continued support of our organization. You helped build it, and you help us make it better.

Auction this year was held at Chivana in

Vancouver and it was very successful. The money raised has gone a long way. Specifically it helped with Camp. Camp Phoenix was held on Gabriola Island, and was once again an absolutely fantastic event. Special mention to Kerry Simmons who once again kindly gave her week to act as Director, and to Julia Lockhart for her amazing work as Camp Administrator. You can find more information about the week and year in Julia and Kerry's submissions in this issue.

Unfortunately the STAND, our new project, was cancelled. There were not enough registration forms by the cancellation date. Penny Chua spent the last year developing a day long session for youth at risk. Please contact me for more information.

Thank you, once again for all your help and thanks for a great year!

Emilie-Anne Paul  
Premier, 77th BCYP

## 39 Years of Worth of Happy Campers and Counting!

By Julia Lockhart

Camp Phoenix 2006 was a tremendous success. A total of 51 campers aged 8 to 12 enjoyed a wonderful week in the sun thanks to the hard work of the 42 camp staff and all of the members of the BC Youth Parliament.

The theme for camp this was the "Wild, Wild, West!" The theme was implemented everywhere with most staff and many campers sporting cowboy hats and bandanas all week. The activities were theme related including stained glass cowboy boots, panning for gold, western picture frames, cabin rodeos and line dancing!

Camp Phoenix also purchased an archery set which allowed us to offer archery as a part of the outdoors program. It proved to be tremendously

popular, giving the swimming pool a run for its money as the most popular activity during free choice!

Campers came primarily from Nanaimo, Victoria, Maple Ridge and Port Coquitlam. All were referred by community organizations, social workers or government offices. Thanks in large part to the many camp grants received this year, many campers received full subsidies and no camper was turned away due to inability to pay.

Many thanks are owed to many people (far too many to list) but in particular to Kerry Simmons for once again serving as camp director. Kerry is the single biggest asset that camp has and working with her again proved to be a tremendous privilege.

## Call for Nominations

We seek new directors to join the Board in order to ensure the continuity of BCYP, providing opportunities for youth to experience the Parliamentary process and to learn about the value of citizenship.

Directors are needed to organize the annual Session, manage the risk of BCYP projects, mentor Parliamentarians, bolster financial sustainability, and to keep the network of alumni intact.

The Board meets six times a year and committee work involves between 1 and 3 hours a month between meetings.

If you are interested in becoming a director, please contact Kerry Simmons at [kerrysimmons@hotmail.com](mailto:kerrysimmons@hotmail.com) or 250-480-9145 before November 10, 2006.

Confirmation of the directors will occur at the AGM.

## Alumni Update/Change of Address Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Session/Former Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Your News/New Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to:

The Youth Parliament Alumni Society of BC  
c/o Swithin D'Souza, 3525 Mayfair Ave,  
Vancouver, BC, V6N 2Z2 or by Email:  
[alumni@bcyp.org](mailto: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 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 we are actively pursuing alternative funding opportunities. 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 support the Alumni Society. Please send your donation along with this form to:

The Youth Parliament of British Columbia Alumni Society, c/o Sang-Kiet Ly, Treasurer  
12546 Scott Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 4H7

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Coming Soon to a Legislature Near You: The 78<sup>th</sup> BCYP

*By Travis Wong*

As the 77th year winds down, we should take the time to remember what we have accomplished. We have debated in Victoria until we were inspired. We ran service projects that touched the lives of people across the province. We educated the youth of BC through our Regional Youth Parliaments. Then, using the funds raised by a fundraising event, we run a week-long summer camp. There is no other youth organization that offers as many golden opportunities as does the British Columbia Youth Parliament.

My personal experience of BCYP has been memorable mainly due to the seniors of this organization. There is no better way to “learn the ropes” than by trying it yourself with the help and

trust of the senior members. I want to personally thank Emilie-Anne Paul (Premier for the 77th Year) for giving me the guidance and the confidence to take on my upcoming position. Without her knowledge and wisdom, I would be nowhere near where I am.

Now as I look back, I realize that I have become one of the “seniors” of the organization.

It is my turn to have faith in the youth that will someday lead this organization as well. It is my turn to lead by example and inspire. It is my turn to follow tradition and continue the legacy of this organization.

With regards,

Travis Wong,  
Premier-Elect 78th BCYP

## Parliamentarians Wanted!

Yet again, the calendar has rolled around to recruitment season for the upcoming Session of youth parliament. You will find a copy of the application form for the 78th 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 available at [www.bcyp.org/session](http://www.bcyp.org/session), along with copies of a promotional brochure and poster about youth parliament. I truly appreciate any personal contacts for recruitment you may be able to make. If you would like more copies of the form, 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](mailto:registrar@bcyp.org) or by phone at 604-728-0446.

Yours in Parliament,

Dora Turje, Registrar

## Fund at the Victoria Foundation

Last fall an endowment fund was created for the Youth Parliament Alumni Society of BC at the Victoria Foundation. This fund will allow for the public to choose the YPAS of BC as a beneficiary of their will, or even donate funds to help sustain this enduring legacy for future young parliamentarians. As a consistent and reliable source of income, we are very excited by the possibilities offered to us by this fund. If you are interested in making a possible contribution or simply would like to have more information, please contact Kerry Simmons, at [kerrysimmons@hotmail.com](mailto:kerrysimmons@hotmail.com) or 250-480-9145.

**Visit Us Online: [www.bcyp.org/alumni](http://www.bcyp.org/alumni)**