

# Mr Speaker

77th Session / NO. 1 / Spring 2006

## Message from the Chair

Thank you to those of you who responded to the requests for assistance in the last edition of the Speaker. It is heartening to know that you are as passionate about Youth Parliament as you were in your days as a member.

With the assistance and encouragement of Linda Reid, the Society has established the Youth Parliament of BC Fund at the Victoria Foundation. Donations may be made to the Victoria Foundation and designated to this Fund. The Victoria Foundation manages the fund, issues tax receipts, and pays a portion of the interest income earned to the Society semi-annually. A percentage of the interest income is reinvested in the Fund.

An exciting element of our relationship with the Victoria Foundation is their promotion of the Fund to community donors. Information about the work of the Society and BCYP, is provided to potential donors who in turn, may designate our Fund for their contributions. The Foundation has a number of programs to promote philanthropic initiatives and their members are excited about offering our Fund as a potential recipient. For more information, please visit the Victoria Foundation's website at [www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca](http://www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca). Anyone can make donations to the

fund. The Alumni Society continues to accept donations directly.

The Society acknowledges the contribution of Pacific Coach Lines to the success of the recent Session. Pacific Coach Lines provides return transportation of Lower Mainland and Interior members from Vancouver to Victoria. Pacific Coach Lines responded to our request for financial assistance and held their transportation rates at 2004 levels, despite the increases with BC Ferries and transportation costs generally. The Society saved over \$500 as a result of this contribution. The service provided by Pacific Coach Lines has always been excellent and we are pleased that through their financial contribution, we are able to continue to offer this level of transportation to members.

Despite the challenge presented by the teacher's job action falling during our recruitment period, we had 80 enthusiastic members attend the 77<sup>th</sup> BCYP. The session included a fantastic debating workshop provided by alumni Ashley and Heather Cochrane which was very well received by members. This initiative and several others improved the members' experience at Session and our Sessional Activities committee will continue to evaluate

and implement changes to ensure that members' experience at session is of the highest quality we can offer.

Read on to learn about BCYP's projects and last year's award winners. This Speaker is the first to be produced by Swithin D'Souza and I'm sure you will enjoy it.

Kerry Simmons  
Chair, Board of Directors



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## News From Parliament

This year's session was fantastically successful. With a smaller membership than normal we maximized the time we had over the week by introducing new workshops, new projects and a more focused service oriented experience. On the second day of session we introduced a new set of workshops to supplement the ones we typically have. The new events were 45 minutes each and consisted of a debate workshop, donations workshop and tour of the legislature. It was discussed late in the 76th year that we should maximize the time in Victoria by not spending the whole week in the House and I think we did a fantastic job doing what we set out to do. We were fortunate enough to have former parliamentarians Heather and Ashley Cochrane lead the debating workshops and Laurel Hogg, Finance Minister, running the Donations workshop.

But of course you don't want a run down of the week, you want commentary! The week was marked by vigorous debate over our extraordinarily unique organization. This year Cabinet proposed a new project in an attempt to prepare BCYP for a time when there is no camp. The Youth Conference went over fabulously at session with more participation during second reading than the other acts. This was reassuring for the new Minister, Penny Chua, but not near as reassuring as the support that has come since session. Well into February Penny has already secured a date and is working on a location.

Since session there have been numerous of projects thanks to Jessica Pisarek, Minister of Service. Members are provided with countless opportunities in the Lower Mainland. Also, there have been events,

the Lower Mainland. Also, there have been events, although not as numerous, on the Island and in the Interior. We have managed to hold onto membership interest and I am glad to see the success of our projects.

Regional Youth Parliaments are well underway with Vancouver Youth Parliament and North Shore Youth Parliament happening February 17-19 and 24-26

respectively. Victor Mung, RYP Minister, has appointed Chairs and CRO's for the Thompson Okanagan, Lower Mainland East and Vancouver Island Youth Parliaments. This year the goal of RYPs is to pass on the skills needed to run the projects and we are well on our way to achieving that.



Finally, and most importantly, Camp. Julia Lockhart, Camp Administrator, has chosen and secured Camp Miriam on Gabriola Island to be the site of Camp Phoenix 2006. Home of Camp 2005 and 2002 Camp Miriam is more than equipped for our needs. Julia has further appointed a Director, Kerry Simmons, and a Cook, Anne Sanderson. That said, Julia is still in need of a nurse. If you have any information about anyone who is qualified to act as the nurse or doctor please contact her at [julia.lockhart@bcyp.org](mailto:julia.lockhart@bcyp.org).

BCYP this year has been totally successful so far this year and I see no sign of the vigor and enthusiasm dying down. It's awesome to see the members out, taking initiative and having fun. If anyone has any comments please feel free to email me ([emilie-anne.paul@bcyp.org](mailto:emilie-anne.paul@bcyp.org)) or call me (250-882-2907) and I will be more than willing to discuss them.

## 76th Session Award Winners

At this year's session, four members of the 76th BC Youth Parliament were recognized for their contributions to the organization in the previous year.

The Bond Shield has been awarded since 1963 in recognition of exemplary work in raising the funds needed to carry out Parliament's project. The award is given to the member who raised the most money in donation totals during the previous year. This year's recipient was Shazan Jiwa, who raised a total of \$625.00.

The Terasen Inspiring New Member award recognizes the first year member who made exceptional contributions to the service and fundraising activities of the BC Youth Parliament during their first year in the organization. This year's recipient was Penny Chua. Penny has demonstrated an inspiring commitment to parliament, through her participation in Camp, and her agreement to join Cabinet on short notice to head up a ministry charged with finding a project replace Camp. Her willingness to step in and help out has made Penny an inspiring new member of BCYP.

This Fisi Award for Service was created in November 1991 in memory of Monica Fisi, who passed away in October 1990 after a long battle with leukemia. The award recognizes exemplary dedication to serving the youth of British Columbia under Youth Parliament's name. This year's recipient was Carley Kennedy. Carley dedicated an enormous amount of time to BCYP, coming to Camp Training, Camp and assisting in any way possible from her home in Enderby. In addition to her contributions to BCYP, Carley volunteered as a crossing-guard at an elementary school, and with the "Meals on Wheels" program for seniors. She also organized a conference for senior students to provide workshops to junior students on topics ranging from safe sex, to drug awareness, and stopping violence. In addition, she established a "Random Acts of Kindness" club that washed downtown windows, passed out donuts, hosted a teacher appreciation day, and other random acts of kindness.

The Paynter Memorial Award for Leadership may be awarded to a member of the previous session 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. This award was first presented in December 1969, in memory of Donald Febus Paynter, whose exemplary performance in the Older Boys' Parliament set a high standard met by few. This year's recipient was Emilie-Anne Paul. Emilie was recognized for her extraordinary skill to reach and connect with members from diverse backgrounds and direct their energy, talents and time to focus on a common goal. Emilie's dedication to youth parliament, combined with her ability to help other people learn to love the organization as much as she does, have shown her to be a true Parliamentarian and a dedicated member and leader.

### 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 of BC** Or email me at:  
c/o Swithin D'Souza  
3525 Mayfair Avenue  
Vancouver BC V6N 2Z2 [alumni@bcyp.org](mailto:alumni@bcyp.org)

Come Visit Us

[www.bcyp.org/alumni](http://www.bcyp.org/alumni)

YOUTH SERVING YOUTH FOR OVER 75 YEARS

*Sweet Dreams 2006: Dinner+Dessert=Divine!*

As you may know, British Columbia Youth Parliament holds a major fundraising event every year in hopes of raising money to support the operation of Camp Phoenix. Thus, I am honoured to invite you to the 15<sup>th</sup> Sweet Dreams Dinner & Auction. This year's first class event will be held at the Chivana Restaurant & Lounge. Its contemporary and classy atmosphere gives an intimate setting that is perfect for an enjoyable evening. In keeping with tradition, there will be a silent and live auction with the addition of an elegant dinner in between.

The Members of Youth Parliament have high hopes for year's event. At Session, many new Members voiced their understanding of the required success of Auction in order for this organization to run its major project. The excitement for Auction carried throughout Session which came to a grand finale of overwhelming enthusiasm at the Penny Auction, held on the last day of Session. I have no doubt that this year's Sweet Dream's Dinner & Auction will be a night to be remembered.

As Alumni, this a great opportunity to see what Parliamentarians of the 77<sup>th</sup> Parliament have accomplished. Please come show your support and help us accomplish the same successes that you all achieved when you were in Parliament. Please find enclosed with this newsletter an invitation to Sweet Dreams Dinner & Auction as well as a ticket order form. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 604-438-9096 or at [travis.wong@bcyp.org](mailto:travis.wong@bcyp.org).

Thank you for your Support!

**PACIFIC COACH LINES**



**The Alumni Society Needs Your Help**

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. 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 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_