

# Youth Parliament of British Columbia



Alumni Society

509 - 1383 Marinaside Cr  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2W9

OCT 04 2017

Corporation of the  
Township of Esquimalt

(604) 604-646-6623  
registrar@bcyp.org

18 September 2017

Dear Sir or Madam:

## Re: British Columbia Youth Parliament, 89th Parliament

The British Columbia Youth Parliament's 89th Parliament will hold its parliamentary session in Victoria at the Provincial Legislative Chambers from December 27 to 31, 2017. The Youth Parliament is a province-wide non-partisan organization for young people ages 16 to 21. It teaches citizenship skills through participation in the December parliamentary session and in community service activities throughout the year. **Youth Parliament is a one year commitment.**

I invite you to encourage eligible youth from your municipality or region to apply to sit as members of the Youth Parliament. Youth Parliament is non-partisan, and applicants need only be interested in learning more about the parliamentary process and in serving their community.

Each applicant who is accepted to attend as a member of BCYP must pay a **\$350** registration fee. Thanks to fundraising efforts, a portion of the cost of transportation and accommodation is reduced but we encourage your municipality to contribute to the fees for those applicants in need. If you are not able to provide assistance, financial support is available for applicants who cannot meet the expense of the registration fee. Requesting financial assistance will not affect an applicant's chance of being selected as a member. We also provide resources for applicants attempting to secure funding from community sources, including schools and service clubs (see [www.bcyp.org/joinus.html](http://www.bcyp.org/joinus.html)).

Members will sit and debate in the Legislative Chambers for five days and will be accommodated for four nights at the Coast Hotel in Victoria. During that time, participants are supervised by members of the Board of Directors of the Youth Parliament of B.C. Alumni Society and other youth parliament alumni. In addition, transportation to and from Victoria will be provided for all members who require it.

I have enclosed an application form and two copies of a brochure about BCYP. I encourage you to make the application form and brochure available to interested young people and to make copies of the forms as needed. If your municipality sponsors a "youth of the year" award or has a municipal youth council, young people with that sort of initiative and involvement are ideal candidates for our organization. A soft copy of the form is available from our website at [www.bcyp.org/joinus.html](http://www.bcyp.org/joinus.html), along with soft copies of the brochure and a promotional poster.

**All applications must be received by October 24, 2017.** Applicants will be notified whether they have been selected in early November. If you require more information, please contact me by telephone or e-mail as indicated above, or visit our website at [www.bcyp.org](http://www.bcyp.org).

Yours truly,

Rhonda Vanderfluit  
Registrar, Youth Parliament of B.C. Alumni Society

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
<input type="checkbox"/>		
RECEIVED: OCT 05 2017		
Referred:		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC

Sponsoring the British Columbia Youth Parliament



British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP) is youth taking responsibility and initiative to make a positive impact in their communities. BCYP is a non-profit, non-partisan, parliamentary education and service organization. BCYP is an extraordinarily unique organization — for youth and by youth.

For a full year, 95 members pool their resources, creativity and determination for a common purpose: to advance, better, and improve the lives of the youth of British Columbia. BCYP brings together youth from across the province and unites them to fulfill the motto of “Youth Serving Youth”. The youth of BCYP reach out and make a difference across British Columbia.

Why?

Because they can.

And more importantly, because they care.

For more information on BCYP and its projects visit our website

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

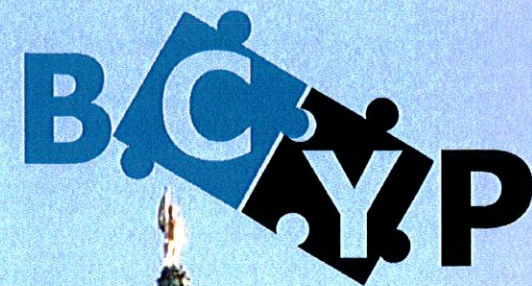
or contact the Premier

**[premier@bcyp.org](mailto:premier@bcyp.org)**

For registration information contact our Registrar

**[registrar@bcyp.org](mailto:registrar@bcyp.org)**

*BCYP is unique in that it is not simply a “mock” or model parliament — the legislation members debate translates into real action in the community.*



**BCYP**



**British Columbia  
Youth Parliament**

**Youth Serving Youth**

**for over 85 years**



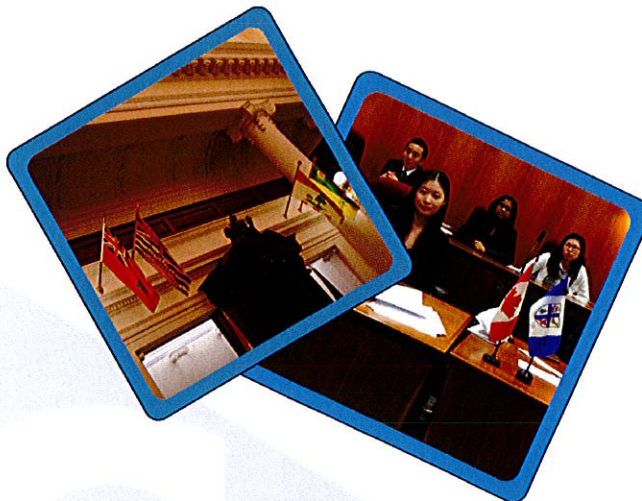
## Why We Are a Parliament

British Columbia Youth Parliament began as the TUXIS Older Boys' Parliament in 1924. In 1974, upon the admittance of girls, it became BC Youth Parliament, and 2013 marked its 85th Session.

Every year, between December 27th and 31st, 95 young people from across British Columbia gather at the Legislative Chambers in Victoria for the annual parliamentary session of BC Youth Parliament. Members sit as independents; they do not represent any political party and they vote according to their own consciences. They learn about parliamentary process, debate topics of interest, and plan activities for the coming year.

Proposed activities are presented in the form of government bills. The debate is led by a Cabinet of experienced youth parliamentarians who spend months before preparing to present their plans. First-time members are also able to raise issues through debate on government legislation and by writing and presenting Private Members' Resolutions dealing with issues ranging from local to international in scope.

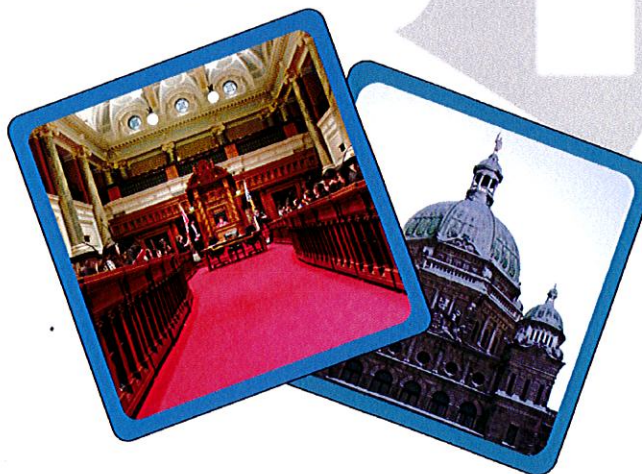
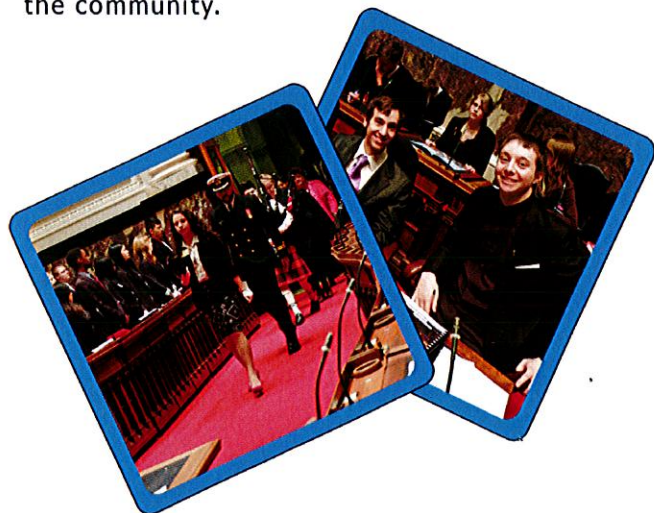
Once BCYP's bills are passed they must be put into effect. This is where BCYP differs from other youth parliaments in that BCYP is not a "model" or "mock" parliament — the legislation members pass translates directly into positive action in the community.



## Regional Youth Parliaments

To increase the number of youth who are able to participate in Youth Parliament activities, BCYP members organize and run Regional Youth Parliaments in various regions of the province. Through these events, BC Youth Parliament furthers its goals of promoting community service, education in the parliamentary process, and training in public speaking and debating.

More local in scope than BCYP, Regional Youth Parliaments hold weekend-long sessions aimed at high school students between the ages of 14 and 18. Members gather to plan their activities for the upcoming year, as well as discussing local, national, and international issues in a parliamentary setting.



## Youth Serving Youth

BCYP members plan and participate in group service events organized around the province. Members come together to volunteer with different organizations or special events, or serve to the community in ways of their own devising. They volunteer with summer camps, food banks, charity walks, soup kitchens, community support services, and other service organizations.

As well, all over British Columbia throughout the year, individual members of BCYP perform solo acts of service to their communities and lend a hand through their involvement with other organizations. Across the province, BCYP members help others in myriad ways, limited only by their imaginations and the will to carry out the projects they envision.



## Community Fundraising

Each year BCYP organizes a variety of fundraising events across the province. Members work in groups and in their communities to raise the funds required to run BCYP's projects and cover its operational expenses. They also engage in service-related fundraising, working in groups and individually to raise money for a variety of causes.

Fundraisers range from pledge events and car washes to auctions and carnivals. Members also solicit donations from local businesses and prominent members of their local communities.



## PERSONAL STATEMENT

At the Parliamentary Session in Victoria, Members of BCYP participate in parliamentary debating and plan activities and community service for the upcoming year. During the year, Members are responsible for service and fundraising in their communities, and organize and participate in projects such as Regional Youth Parliaments, fundraising events, community outreach projects, and other service and debating activities.

Please attach a **one-page** personal statement, outlining:

1. Why you would like to be a Member of BCYP;
2. What type of activities you have been/are, or intend to become, involved with in your community;
3. Any activities you have been/are involved with that relate to debate or public speaking;
4. With reference to the preceding paragraphs, how you believe you can personally contribute to BCYP, including debate at Session AND its projects and other activities throughout the Sessional year.

## YOUTH PARLIAMENT EXPERIENCE

Have you attended BCYP before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If **yes**, do you wish to become a member of the Alumni Society?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the list

If **"Yes" or "Already on the list"** above, do you consent to receive e-mail communications from the Alumni Society, which may include requests for donations or other items of a commercial nature? (Note: answering "No" below means you will not receive any e-mails, including the Alumni Society's newsletter *The Speaker*.)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you attended a Regional Youth Parliament as a Member or Ambassador?

☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you **first** hear about BCYP? (Please choose one option)

- ☐ From a teacher ☐ From a group leader ☐ Saw a poster/brochure (where? \_\_\_\_\_)
- ☐ Through a Regional Youth Parliament ☐ From a member or alumnus of BCYP or a RYP  
(which one? \_\_\_\_\_) (name of individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- ☐ Facebook ☐ Other (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

## WAIVER

In consideration for acceptance to British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP), the undersigned on behalf of the Applicant and all heirs, executors and administrators, waives any and all claims for damages against BCYP and the Youth Parliament of British Columbia Alumni Society, and their directors, officers, and agents for any and all injuries or loss which the Applicant may suffer during, or in connection with any BCYP Session, trip, or any other activity, or transportation to or from Session or any other activity.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If under 19, Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian Signing: \_\_\_\_\_

(Applicant should sign even if a parent or guardian is also required to sign.)

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Complete the attached application form and forward it with your personal statement and registration fee to:

**Rhonda Vanderfluit, Registrar**  
**509 – 1383 Marinaside Cres.**  
**Vancouver, BC V6Z 2W9**

e-mail: [registrar@bcyp.org](mailto:registrar@bcyp.org)

Fax: 604-731-0081

Applications must be **RECEIVED** by **Tuesday, October 24, 2017** by mail, fax, or email attachment. If you send the application by email attachment, please mail the original signed copy with your application fee.

## REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee for each member is **\$350**. A cheque or money order made payable to the **Youth Parliament of B.C. Alumni Society** must be sent with the application form, or follow a fax or e-mail with the original signed application as soon as possible (any acceptance is not final until a registration fee is received). Registration fees will be returned to those not accepted. NSF cheques are subject to a \$45 fee.

Applicants who are in financial need are first encouraged to approach school and community groups to contribute to the cost of the application fee. For those who are not able to secure outside funding, a limited amount of **financial support is available from BCYP**. For more information, please contact the Registrar **before** the October 24 application deadline. Requests for financial assistance cannot be considered after applicants have been accepted as members.

## CANCELLATION

Accepted members who cancel on or before December 12 will receive a refund of their registration fee minus a \$25 cancellation fee, unless travel tickets have been purchased in which case no refund is issued. No refunds will be issued to any member cancelling after December 12.

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSOR

British Columbia Youth Parliament is sponsored by the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society, a registered, non-profit organization composed of past members of BCYP.

## British Columbia Youth Parliament



**Parliamentary Session**  
**December 27 - 31, 2017**  
**Victoria, BC**

## Information and Application Form

**89th Parliament 2017-2018**



WHAT IS BCYP?

British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP) is a youth organization that recognizes every young person's potential to lead and serve in the community. Since 1924, BCYP has provided a forum for young people to develop skills in leadership, organization, public speaking, and the parliamentary process, and to put these skills into practice through service to youth in their local communities.

BCYP is not affiliated with any political party and is a non-profit organization.

Membership in BCYP begins with attending the Parliamentary Session in Victoria and continues throughout 2018. For detailed information about BCYP's activities, visit our website, [www.bcup.org](http://www.bcup.org).

BCYP'S ACTIVITIES

BCYP's year begins with the Parliamentary Session from December 27 – 31, 2017. Members sit in the Legislative Assembly in Victoria and use the parliamentary style of debate to plan educational and service projects, establish BCYP's financial commitments, and amend BCYP's governing legislation.

At Session, Members:

- Meet young people from all over the province;
- Debate Cabinet's legislation which sets out BCYP's activities for 2018;
- Debate current local, national, and international issues;
- Learn about debating and the rules of parliamentary procedure;
- Elect BCYP's Premier, Deputy Speaker, and Leader of the Opposition for the 90th Parliament.

After Session, Members put into action the plans made at Session, which usually include:

- Volunteer service projects in their home communities;
- Group volunteer service projects with summer camps, food banks charity walks, soup kitchens, and other service groups;
- Special projects which vary depending on annual legislation but have included summer festivals, children's day camps and Camp Phoenix;
- Regional Youth Parliaments;
- Fundraising events;
- Social activities with other Members.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Each year 97 youth are "elected" to BCYP as representatives of their communities. Each applicant must be nominated by an organization committed to youth (i.e. a school, community group, club or church). Five members of that group must indicate their support by signing the application form.

To be eligible for membership you must be:

- Age 16 – 21 (inclusive) as of Dec. 31, 2017;
- A resident of British Columbia;
- Nominated by an organization committed to youth;
- Willing and able to participate in BCYP's activities for one year.

Due to the limited number of seats in the Provincial Legislature, only 97 applicants will be selected to become Members.

SESSIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

**Accommodations:** Accommodation at the Coast Hotel in Victoria is provided for all Members for the nights of December 27 – 30 (inclusive). Members share rooms with other Members of the same gender.

**Transportation:** Transportation for Members residing outside the Victoria area is included in the registration fee. Members living in the Interior, North, or North Island will be required to travel on December 26 and January 1.

**Meals:** Each Member is responsible for the cost of all meals in Victoria. Some dinners will be at assigned restaurants, others free-choice.

PRE-SESSIONAL INFORMATION

The Registrar will notify all applicants by email or mail as to their acceptance status by mid-November. Accepted Members are provided with an orientation package prior to Session and are invited to attend one of the Pre-Sessional Workshops held in different regions of the province. The details of the workshops will be announced in the acceptance letters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Inquiries from applicants, parents and nominating organizations are welcomed. Please contact:

**Rhonda Vanderfluit, Registrar**  
**[registrar@bcyp.org](mailto:registrar@bcyp.org)**  
**604-646-6623**

APPLICATION FORM – EIGHTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER: \_\_\_\_\_ Room with: ☐ M ☐ F

CURRENT ADDRESS (including temporary/University residence):

STREET / PO BOX: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT ADDRESS (i.e. parents) or STREET ADDRESS if different from above:

STREET / PO BOX: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

TRANSPORTATION TO VICTORIA REQUIRED FROM:

CURRENT/TEMPORARY ADDRESS ☐ PERMANENT ADDRESS ☐ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDATE: (MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY: \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATING ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT TEACHER / COORDINATOR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF TEACHER / GROUP COORDINATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you (teacher/coordinator) like to receive a print and e-mail copy of the application package each year?  
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the list

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS/STUDENTS of \_\_\_\_\_ NOMINATE  
(NAME OF ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL)

\_\_\_\_\_, A MEMBER/STUDENT OF OUR ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL TO SIT AS A BCYP MEMBER.

FIVE NOMINATING SIGNATURES REQUIRED: (other members/students of the organization/school)

	NAME	SIGNATURE	TELEPHONE
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____

Application form must be RECEIVED by October 24, 2017.