

Youth Parliament  
of British Columbia



Alumni Society

208 - 7191 Barnet Road  
Burnaby, BC V5A 1E1

CITY OF KELOWNA

SEP 11 2007

ADMINISTRATION  
DEPARTMENT

(604) 728-0446  
registrar@bcyp.org

8 September 2007

Dear Sir or Madam:

**Re: British Columbia Youth Parliament, 79<sup>th</sup> Parliament**

The British Columbia Youth Parliament's 79<sup>th</sup> Parliament will be held in Victoria at the Provincial Legislative Chambers from December 27 to 31, 2007. 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.

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 municipal or regional government may nominate two applicants.**

I have enclosed an application form and a pamphlet about BCYP. I encourage you to make the application form and pamphlet 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/session](http://www.bcyp.org/session), along with soft copies of the pamphlet and an informational poster.

All application forms must be received by October 24, 2007. Selected applicants will be notified 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,

Handwritten signature of Dora Turje.

Dora Turje  
Registrar, Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society

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Yours truly,

Dora Turje  
Registrar, Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society

## SWEET DREAMS *a night of stars*

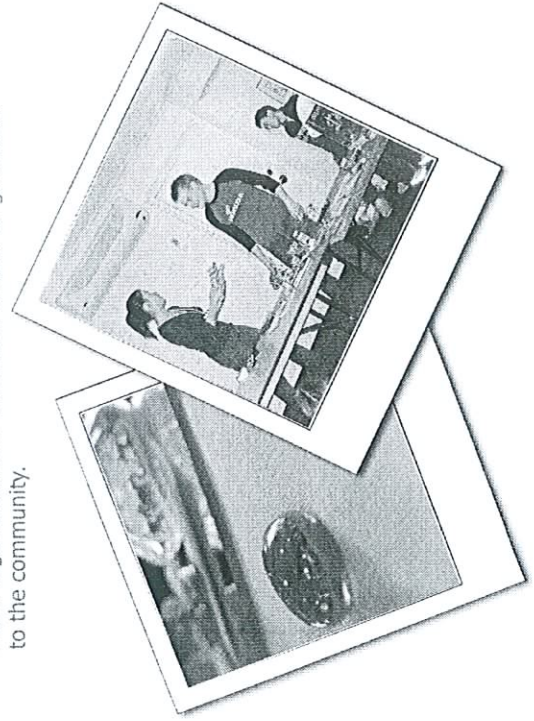
The proceeds from this gala fundraising event are used to subsidize the cost of Camp Phoenix and BCYP's numerous other projects. Our goal is to raise in the neighbourhood of \$8,000 in order to help provide subsidies for the greatest number of children to Camp Phoenix in over 30 years.

Previous BCYP auctions have featured donations from a large variety of companies, including a golf game with news anchor Tony Parsons, lunch with Joy MacPhail, fully inclusive weekend getaway packages to Whistler, Tofino and Victoria, Native artwork, jewelry, theatre packages, restaurant gift certificates, and much more!

## servicing

SERVICE  
*lending a helping hand*

In addition to our own projects and activities, BCYP also takes part in numerous projects with other organisations. In the past, these have included organisations such as the Variety Club, the Union Gospel Mission, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, and more. This year, BCYP will continue its work with such organisations and strive to reach out to even more organisations in continued efforts to give back to the community.



## youth

CAMP PHOENIX  
*because every kid counts*

Camp Phoenix is by far the most far-reaching task attempted by a youth service organisation. This project is about organising and running a summer camp for children from across British Columbia who would otherwise be unable to live the summer camp experience. It is about the members of BCYP coming together to realise an ambitious and truly noble goal. It is about pushing our limits and redefining terms like "hard work" and "commitment." It is about truly making a huge difference in the community.

This project is fully initiated, developed, and staffed by members of our organisation. Our fundraising and efforts throughout the year come together to send 50 children aged 8-11 to enjoy a very special week of their summer and lives. Held at a different campsite every year, Camp Phoenix provides the opportunity for children from all regions of the province to attend. Fully accredited by the BC Camping Association, the cost of organising Camp Phoenix is approximately \$21,000, which is roughly half of BCYP's annual budget.



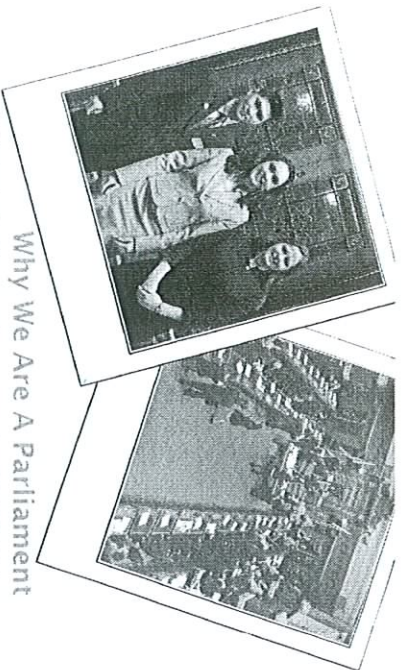
## youth

REGIONAL YOUTH  
PARLIAMENTS  
*catch the parliamentary wave*

To increase the number of youth who are able to participate in Youth Parliament activities, BCYP members organise 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 regional 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.

## the STAND

This year, BCYP has taken on another challenge. The STAND is a day long youth forum for students in the early years of high school who may be exposed to the harsh reality of life too soon. At the STAND students will participate in a day of activities, workshops and speakers designed to give them the tools they need to get on the right track and excel in life. As with everything BCYP does, the STAND is designed to serve the youth of BC while positively impacting the community and making our mark one youth at a time.



### Why We Are A Parliament

BC Youth Parliament began as the TUXIS Older Boys' Parliament, meeting for the first time in 1924. It began under the umbrella of the National TUXIS Movement of the United Church of Canada. After the Second World War, the Older Boys' Parliament began to expand, and in the 1960s it became independent from the United Church. In 1974, upon the admittance of girls, it became BC Youth Parliament and in 2007, will be holding its 79<sup>th</sup> Session.

Every year, between December 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 95 representatives of youth organisations from across British Columbia (the "Parliamentarians"), gather at the Legislative Chambers in Victoria for the annual session of British Columbia Youth Parliament. Members sit as independents; they do not represent any political party and they vote according to their individual consciences on all issues. They learn about parliamentary process, debate topics of interest, and plan numerous activities for the upcoming year. Proposed activities are presented in the form of government bills; once 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 actually translates into positive action in the community.

All 95 of our members are volunteers; people who sacrifice a week of their winter vacation to debate and legislate the projects we attempt, as well as sacrificing the countless days, weeks, and months to follow through with them. Why do we do it?

Because we can.  
And more importantly, because we care.

**British Columbia Youth Parliament** (BCYP) is youth taking responsibility and initiative to make a positive impact in their communities. Essentially, BCYP is a non-profit, non-partisan, youth, service organisation. For a full year, 95 members pool their resources, creativity and determination for one purpose: to advance, better, and improve the lives of the youth of British Columbia.

Our motto is "Youth Serving Youth". Through various projects, BCYP fulfills this motto. However, our organisation differs tremendously from any other youth service group in a number of ways.

We reach out further to the hands of British Columbians that need it most; we operate, develop, and fundraise for projects entirely initiated by ourselves; and we accomplish projects that few other organisations even attempt. We are about the youth of British Columbia maximizing their potential to give back to the community. **This is BCYP.**

For more information about BCYP, donating, or getting involved please visit

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

or

[www.campphoenix.ca](http://www.campphoenix.ca)

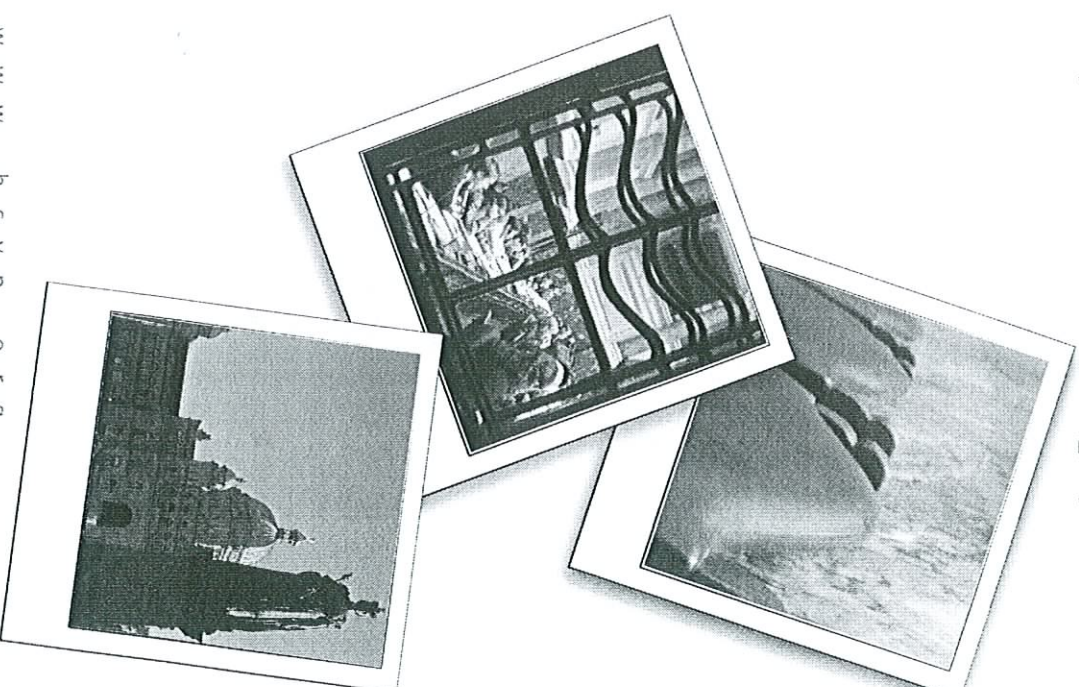
or

contact the Premier at [premier@bcyp.org](mailto:premier@bcyp.org)

For registration information please contact our Registrar at [registrar@bcyp.org](mailto:registrar@bcyp.org)



youth serving youth



**APPLICATION FORM – SEVENTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MALE  FEMALE

CURRENT ADDRESS (including temporary/University residence)

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

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

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

PERMANENT ADDRESS (i.e. Parents) If different from above:

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

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

TRANSPORTATION TO VICTORIA REQUIRED FROM:

CURRENT/TEMPORARY ADDRESS  PERMANENT ADDRESS

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

PROVINCIAL CONSTITUENCY: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Note: A nominating organization may only nominate two applicants.*

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

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

NAME OF GROUP COORDINATOR/CONTACT TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you (coordinator) like to be put on our direct mailing list for next year's application package? \_\_\_\_\_

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS/STUDENTS of \_\_\_\_\_

(NAME OF ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL)

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

**FIVE NOMINATING SIGNATURES REQUIRED:**

NAME

SIGNATURE

TELEPHONE

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Application form must be **RECEIVED** by October 24, 2007.

**WHAT IS BCYP?**

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

**BCYP'S ACTIVITIES**

BCYP's year begins with the Parliamentary Session from December 27 – 31, 2007. 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 2008;
- 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 80<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

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

- Volunteer service projects in their home communities;
- Camp Phoenix, an annual week-long children's summer camp for first-time campers (organized, funded, and staffed by BCYP Members);
- Regional Youth Parliaments;
- Fundraising events such as an Auction;
- Social activities with other Members.



**WHO CAN ATTEND?**

Each year 95 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, local community group, club or church). Five members of that group must indicate their support for the applicant by signing the application form.

**To be eligible to stand for election you must be:**

- Age 16 – 21 (inclusive) as of Dec. 31, 2007;
- A resident of British Columbia for at least 6 of the 12 months prior to Session;
- Nominated by an organization committed to youth;
- Willing to participate in BCYP's activities for one year.

Due to the limited number of seats in the Provincial Legislature, only 95 applicants will be selected to become Members.

**SESSIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

**Accommodations:** Accommodation at the Harbour Towers Hotel in Victoria is provided for all Members for the nights of December 27 – 30.

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

**Meals:** The cost of meals is the responsibility of the Members with the exception of one lunch.

**PRE-SESSIONAL INFORMATION**

The Registrar will notify all applicants by mail as to their acceptance status in early November. Accepted Members are provided with a detailed orientation package prior to Session and are invited to attend one of the Pre-Sessional Workshops held on Vancouver Island, in the Interior, and in the Lower Mainland. The time and location of the workshops will be announced in the acceptance letters.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Inquiries from applicants, parents and nominating organizations are welcomed. Please contact:  
**Dora Turje, Registrar – (604) 728-0446 or registrar@bcyp.org**

## 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 a children's summer camp, an auction, a youth conference, Regional Youth Parliaments, fundraising events 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 currently are or intend to become involved in your community;
3. With reference to the preceding paragraph, how you believe you can personally contribute to BCYP and/or to its activities.

## 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

Have you attended a Regional Youth Parliament?

Yes  No If yes, which one? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about BCYP?

- From a teacher / group coordinator  Saw a poster / brochure  In a newspaper or newsletter  
 From a member or alumnus of BCYP or a RYP  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

BC Medical (CareCard) Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## CONSENT & WAIVER

In consideration for acceptance to British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP), the undersigned on behalf of the Applicant and all heirs, executors and administrators, consents to all necessary medical treatment and 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, camp or any other activity.

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

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

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

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

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

**Dora Turje, Registrar**  
**208 – 7191 Barnet Road**  
**Burnaby, British Columbia V5A 1E1**

**Fax: (604) 298-4859**

Applications must be **received** at the above address by **Wednesday, October 24, 2007**. Please send by Canada Post (lettermail, Xpresspost, or Priority Courier service).

*Note:* Applications received by fax by the deadline will be considered, however any acceptance will not be final until the original form and registration fee is received.

## REGISTRATION FEE

The regular registration fee is \$280 for each Member, however this year due to financial assistance from the Victoria Foundation and Coast Capital Savings Foundation grants are being given to all Members, reducing the fee to **\$155**. A cheque or money order in the amount of **\$155** made payable to the **Youth Parliament of B.C. Alumni Society** must be sent with the application form. **Further financial support is available to qualified applicants.** For more information, please contact Dora Turje, Registrar, at (604) 728-0446 or registrar@bcyp.org.

Registration fees for applicants not accepted will be immediately returned.

## CANCELLATION FEE

Members who cancel after having been advised of their acceptance will have the registration fee refunded less a \$25 cancellation fee. The registration fee **will not** be refunded for cancellations made within fourteen days of the Session, **or** if travel tickets have been purchased for the Member.

## YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF BC ALUMNI SOCIETY

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

The Alumni Society is grateful for the generous support of the Coast Capital Savings Foundation and Victoria Foundation.



**British Columbia Youth Parliament**  
**79th Parliamentary Session**

**December 27 - 31, 2007**  
**Parliament Buildings**  
**Victoria, BC**

**Information & Nomination Form**  
**Financial Support Available to Qualified Applicants**

The poster features a black and white photograph of the British Columbia Parliament Buildings in Victoria, with a fountain in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, sans-serif font.