

British Columbia Youth Parliament

2002 Annual Report





This is us.

British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP) is about youths taking responsibility and initiative to make a positive impact in their communities. Essentially, BCYP is a non-profit, non-partisan, youth service organization. For a full year, 93 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 organization 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 organization are able to attempt. We are about the youth of British Columbia maximizing their potential to give back to the community.

This is BCYP.

"BCYP is not a 'mock or model parliament';
the legislation actually translates to **ACTION**
within the community."

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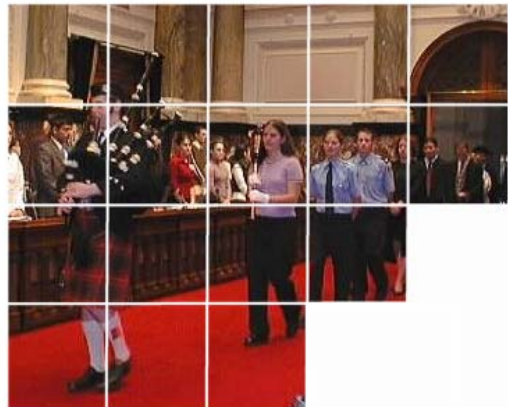




So why are we a parliament?

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 1960's it became independent from the United Church. In 1974, upon the admittance of girls, it became BC Youth Parliament and in 2002 held its 74th session.

Every year, between December 27th and 31st, 93 representatives of youth organizations 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 action in the community.



All 93 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.





camp phoenix

Camp Phoenix, a weeklong residential summer camp for children, is British Columbia Youth Parliament's largest single service project. For over thirty years, "Parliamentarians" aged 16 to 21 from across the province have worked to ensure the success of this ambitious undertaking. The primary aim of Camp Phoenix is to provide a positive camping experience for children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend a summer camp due to social or financial hardships.

Held at different campsites throughout the province each year, Camp



Phoenix is estimated to have served some 1500 campers since its creation over thirty years ago. Camp Phoenix is fully accredited by the British Columbia Camping Association. Camp Phoenix provides a minimum 1 to 4 cabin leader to camper ratio, ensuring that each child enjoys personal attention and receives close supervision. The staff of Camp Phoenix have traditionally been members of Youth Parliament who volunteer hundreds of hours each year planning, fundraising and training for camp.

For over thirty years, Camp Phoenix has continued to serve the youth of British Columbia in a very personal and meaningful way. The Camp Phoenix experience has touched not only the lives of each of its campers, but it has also helped the youth who undertake this challenge each year to realize their ability to serve others and offer lasting contributions within their communities. It is in this spirit of community service that Camp Phoenix strives to continue to be a successful and meaningful opportunity for youth to make a difference.





camp phoenix



Camp Phoenix 2002

Camp Phoenix 2002 was held at Camp Miriam on Gabriola Island from August 25th to 31st, 2002. 42 children aged 8-12 attended Camp Phoenix as campers, and the staff roster consisted of over 40 volunteers.

Activities at Camp Phoenix 2002 included swimming, outdoor adventures, games & sports, and arts & crafts. The camp was centered around the theme of the Olympics, with campers honing their skills all week in areas of teamwork, cooperation and competition. Each of the cabins had special "countries" that prepared them for special events and activities. All of these contributed to a happy and fun atmosphere at Camp Phoenix.

Campers also enjoyed performing at the Camp Phoenix Talent Show, participating in a camp-out under the stars, learning new songs at each evening's campfire, and designing miniature works of art for the camp's art exhibit.

Our Campers

The purpose of Camp Phoenix is to provide a safe and positive camping experience for children in British Columbia who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend a summer camp due to social or financial circumstances. As a past Camp Administrator once said, "The objective of this camp shall be to change the environment of the campers for the better through demonstrating that the positive aspects of life in general are not just something to strive for, but something which is well within their grasp."

Our campers come from a wide variety of backgrounds and regions of the province. After months of preparation and anticipation, campers arrive to an open, fun atmosphere. A caring, energetic crew of volunteer staff is dedicated to providing an unforgettable week of excitement and discovery for each and every camper. Staff members receive training and instruction on providing positive care in a nurturing environment. Although Camp Phoenix strives to provide a summer camp experience for as many special needs children as possible, our ability to do so depends on the availability of adequately trained staff. For this reason, we are unfortunately generally unable to accommodate campers suffering from a serious medical illness.

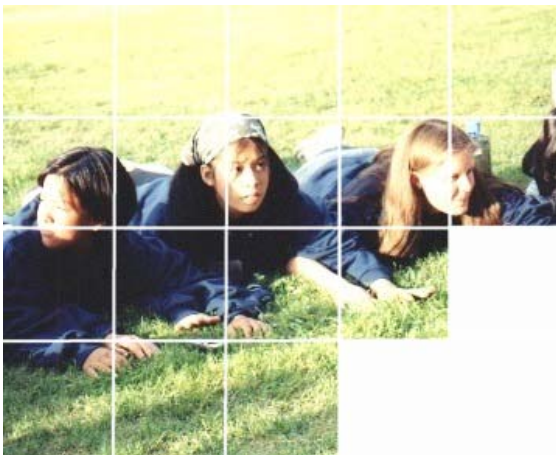




camp phoenix

Our staff

In addition to planning and organizing Camp Phoenix, the members of BC Youth Parliament serve as staff members at Camp. Youth from across the province come together to serve as Cabin Leaders, Activity Directors, Program Resource staff, Lifeguards and Waterfront staff, members of the Kitchen team, and first aid personnel. In addition, Camp Phoenix relies on professionals within the community to volunteer as Camp Director, Head Cook, and Camp Nurse. All staff are subject to an application and screening process, and must undergo training according to the BC Camping Association standards each year in preparation for Camp Phoenix.



*“Dedicated to providing
an unforgettable
week of **excitement**
and discovery for each
and every
camper.”*

Budget

The final cost of Camp Phoenix 2002 was just under \$18,000, which was over one-half of Youth Parliament’s overall budget of \$35,000. In addition to organizing and staffing Camp Phoenix, Parliamentarians are responsible for raising the funds necessary to execute this large project each year. Through these fundraising efforts, we have been able to provide partial or full bursaries to every camper whose participation in Camp Phoenix would be hindered by the already subsidized camper fee of \$250.00. We have been especially fortunate to receive the support of local businesses and individual donors whose generous sponsorships have made it possible for campers to partake in the wonderful summer camp experience at no cost to their families. A detailed listing of Youth Parliament’s sponsors is included on page nine.

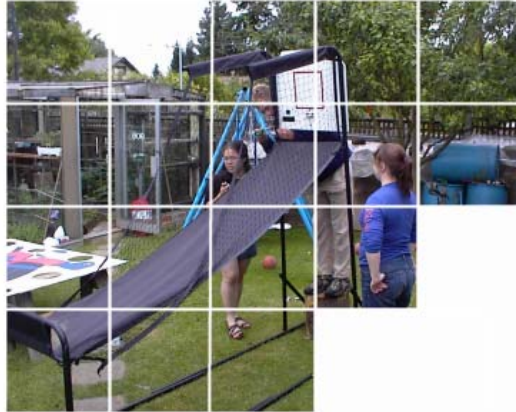




bcyp summerfest 2002

In 2002, BCYP introduced a new initiative. The new project had every intention on being a positive experience for families in their communities, just as much as it intended on serving as a fundraiser. Thus, BCYP SummerFest 2002 was born.

BCYP SummerFest 2002 was a showcase of youth, youth involvement, youth talents and youth initiatives. This community festival was an all-ages event with entertainment available for all, ranging from garage bands, to tarot readers, to face painting, to midway rides and games. This outdoor event, held on July 13th, 2002 at New Brighton Park in Vancouver, attracted people of all ages. SummerFest aimed to educate through heritage, safety, literacy, and arts in programs that will be made available free of charge. Over forty community groups showed their support by bringing their programs and activities to the festival. What was particularly unique about SummerFest is that its goal is to provide families with social or financial difficulties a chance to have fun with their family and friends in an environment that is not always accessible to them.

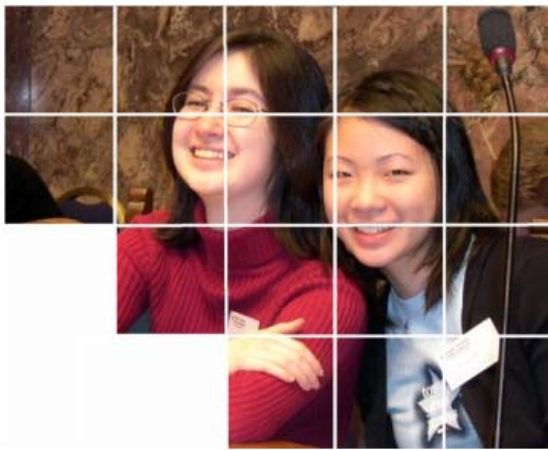


Most notably, all of the games at SummerFest were built entirely by BCYP members. In total, seventeen games were constructed.





regional youth parliaments



To increase the number of youth who are able to participate in Youth Parliament activities, parliamentarians organize and run Regional Youth Parliaments (RYP's) in six different regions of the province. Through RYP's, BC Youth Parliament achieves its goals of promoting community service, education in the parliamentary process, training in public speaking and debating. Regional Youth Parliaments are weekend-long Parliaments aimed at high school students between the ages of 14 and 18. The youth gather

to plan their activities for the upcoming year, as well as discuss local, national and international issues, in a parliamentary setting.

Last year BCYP ran three successful RYP's across the province. They covered Greater Vancouver, the North Shore, and the Kootenays.

*“Regional Youth Parliaments allow **BC Youth Parliament** to provide even **more youth** across the **province** with parliamentary education and instill in them a **commitment to serving their communities.**”*

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sponsors

British Columbia Youth Parliament relies upon the continued support of generous donors in order to successfully carry out its ambitious projects, such as Camp Phoenix. With an annual budget of close to \$30,000, the members of the 73rd BC Youth Parliament were dedicated year-round to fundraising. Thanks to the contributions of several community-minded individuals and local businesses, we were once again able to meet the challenges we had set out for ourselves. All families requiring a subsidisation of the Camp Phoenix registration fee were provided with a bursary as a result of this continued support. On behalf of the Members of British Columbia Youth Parliament, as well as the children who were able to attend Camp Phoenix, we would like to offer our most sincere thanks and gratitude to the following donors:

Arts Club Theatre Company
Ballet BC
Bard on the Beach
BC Gas Utility
BCTV
Birthplace of BC Gallery
Bloedel Conservatory
Bobby Dazzler
Burnaby's Heritage Village
Butterfly Nail Design
Cactus Club
Canadian Airlines
Canadian Springs
Candy Cupboard
Carousel Theatre Company
CKNW Orphan's Fund
Crown Publications Inc.
Creekhouse Gallery
Crystal Garden Conservatory
DBA ABC Country Restaurant
Exchanges Canada
Fitness World

H.R. MacMillan Space Centre
Harbour Cruises
Herbal Republic
Hoarse Raven Theatre
Hyak Rafting Adventures
Home Depot
Knights of Columbus BC Charity Foundation
Manager Clothing
Mr. and Mrs. da Silva
Mr. and Mrs. Lam
Mr. Aniz Alani
Mr. Bennie Yung
Mr. Bryan McKinnon
Mr. Chris Charles
Mr. Chris Lam
Mr. David Kwong
Mr. Donald Silversides
Mr. Eddie Au
Mr. Jimmy Lau
Mr. John Morton
Mr. Michael Johnson
Mr. Odd Eidsvik
Mr. Paul Browning
Mr. Paul Dhillon

Mr. Praveen Vohora
Mr. Reginald Foote
Mr. Skunder Bath
Mrs. Nancy Lo
Ms. Amy Mung
Ms. Marina Cho
Ms. Miranda Lam
Ms. Rhonda Vanderfluit
Ms. Theresa Teufel
Northern Savings Credit Union
Point Grey Secondary School
Port Moody Secondary School
Prince of Whales Whale Watching
Royal Canadian Air Farce
Royal London Wax Museum
Seville Hair Design
Simpatico Ristorante
The Everything Wet Store
The Fairmont Empress Hotel
Undersea Gardens
Vancouver Art Gallery
Vancouver International Jazz Festival
Vancouver Symphony
Willy van Yperen Ltd.
Vancouver Sun Children's Fund





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