

cabinet contact list. 81.

got questions? comments? concerns? Give any one of us a shout!

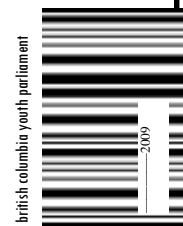
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members' handbook

December 27-31
Session No. 81

BCYP

Youth Serving Youth



Come one, come all!

Congratulations on being selected as a member of the 81st British Columbia Youth Parliament. We are very excited that you will be spending this time with us and are looking forward to meeting you, showing you Victoria and helping you make a difference throughout the year.

So before we dive right in here's a snippet of BCYP's history:

BCYP started back in the 1920's as the "Older Boys Youth Parliament." Since then OBP has grown to include people of all denominations and walks of life. In 1974 OBP became the British Columbia Youth Parliament, when the first women were allowed in. Our members represent the province, and it is our motto to give back and serve those around us.

Every year at the end of December, about 95 youth from all over the province meet in Victoria at the Provincial Legislature. There they plan, debate, and organize the upcoming year. We meet all the amazing people we will be spending the year working with, we get to hang out until all hours of the morning, sleep for a few, get up and start the day again. It's five days of fun and legislation.

Starting out in BCYP can be a little overwhelming and confusing, so we've put this handy book together. It should give you all you need to know about Parliament, legislation and service.

If it is possible we usually have a pre-sessional event or two before Session in December. We encourage you to come out and meet some of your fellow members.

We hope that you have an amazing session and you remember BCYP the way we do.

Good luck and we look forward to meeting you!!

Sincerely,
Cabinet

81st British Columbia Youth Parliament

Camp Phoenix - Camp Phoenix, affectionately known as "Camp", is BCYP's largest service project of the year. Every August we run a week-long summer camp for kids who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend a summer camp for social or financial reasons. The success of camp is dependent upon you, the members!! Member's help is required in every aspect of camp, from helping with fundraising efforts, to aiding in the search for a nurse and cook, to coming to camp as a staff member. Almost all of the staff at camp are members from BCYP who act as cabin leaders, lifeguards and activity directors. This one week will not only change the lives of the children we serve, but our lives as well! If you've got any questions, feel free to contact your friendly neighborhood Camp Minister

Service - The Ministry of Service keeps members involved in BCYP between large events such as session, Auction and Camp. This Ministry organizes service projects (such as volunteering with the Variety Club, Canuck Place, and a Soup Kitchen), and socials (yes, we have fun gatherings too!). We also have email digests to keep you in the loop.

RYPs - Just as we go through BCYP, we recreate the experience for youths aged 14-18 around the province. There are several Regional Youth Parliaments to be held this year around our province. If you would like to be involved, contact the Minister of RYPs to find out how you can help!

Donations - In order to help FUNd our projects, each member is responsible for fundraising the \$ we need. Each member commits to FUNdraising an amount that we decide on at session. It is very easy to do with a bit of time, energy and patience. Best of all, there is lots of help available. Cabinet will be hosting workshops to share tips and ideas on how to reach your total, and your regional minister will be planning fundraising events for your area!

CAMP PHOENIX

Post-Sessional Events - Like the application form said, BCYP is a year long commitment, so we try to start the fun as soon as possible after session. Regional Ministers try to organize events in the different regions of the province to make sure that you can stay involved. Feel free (and encouraged) to organize your own events and projects, just don't forget to contact your regional Minister first.

The Rest of the Year!! - There will be stuff going on all the time, all over the province! In order to really get the most out of BCYP it is so important that you take advantage of all these great plans you helped decide on by coming out and participating!!

Urban Nights - To bolster our individual fundraising efforts, every year the Minister of Community Fundraising organizes and hosts a large scale gala event designed to bring in community members as well as alumni. This year, we will be running Urban Nights Wine and Cheese in the late spring, which brings together fine food and a silent auction to raise money for our projects. This is an exciting project that requires the assistance of each and every member! There are job suited for everyone, whether your interests lie in soliciting auction items, performing, securing sponsorships, designing posters and invitations, helping with program development, or selling tickets. . . Contact the Minister of Community Fundraising to get involved.

Private Members' Resolutions

In addition to legislation, we debate Private Members' Resolutions (PMRs) at Session. PMRs are one of the most fun parts of Session, and they are a chance to get up and talk about real issues in the community. Any Member can write a PMR – contact the Attorney General for more info, he will be glad to help you get started and answer any questions you have. The AG will schedule as many PMR debates as possible during Session. Even if your PMR is not debated in the House, it will be included in the Journal. The following is an example which explains some of the parts of a PMR.

**PMR #1 - IN SUPPORT OF
REINSTITUTING THE BRITISH
COLUMBIA TUITION FREEZE**

WHEREAS post-secondary tuition levels in British Columbia and across the country are increasing;

AND WHEREAS many students graduate from university, especially professional programs, in debt;

AND WHEREAS education is a government responsibility at the provincial level;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1 The 75th British Columbia Youth Parliament supports
 - (a) the reinstatement of British Columbia's post-secondary tuition freeze, and
 - (b) increases in provincial government financial assistance to post-secondary institutions.
- 2 The Provincial Secretary communicates this position to
 - (a) the Minister of Advanced Education of British Columbia, and
 - (b) the Minister of Finance of British Columbia.

Communication clause: this is where you say who you want to hear about our position on the issue (one tip: use titles, not names)

Title: this is where you put the essence of what the PMR is about

Whereas clauses: the *facts* that support your argument

Resolution: what BCYP will be supporting by passing the PMR – what we debate!

session 12.09

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And we will put you up in.... The Harbour Towers Hotel

The Harbour Towers is a quick 5 minutes from the legislature and a Mac's for those pre-curfew snack cravings. The hotel has many facilities, that you are welcome to use if you find the time. There is a pool, restaurant, gift shop and gym. Also there is parking located in the basement if you are an island member driving up.

Members are assigned three to a room. There is typically a returning member and two new members. The room has two beds and a cot, a television, bathroom, closet and drawer space.

Members must be back in the hotel by 1 am. They must check in with the Chief Returning Officer in the lobby before heading up to their room.

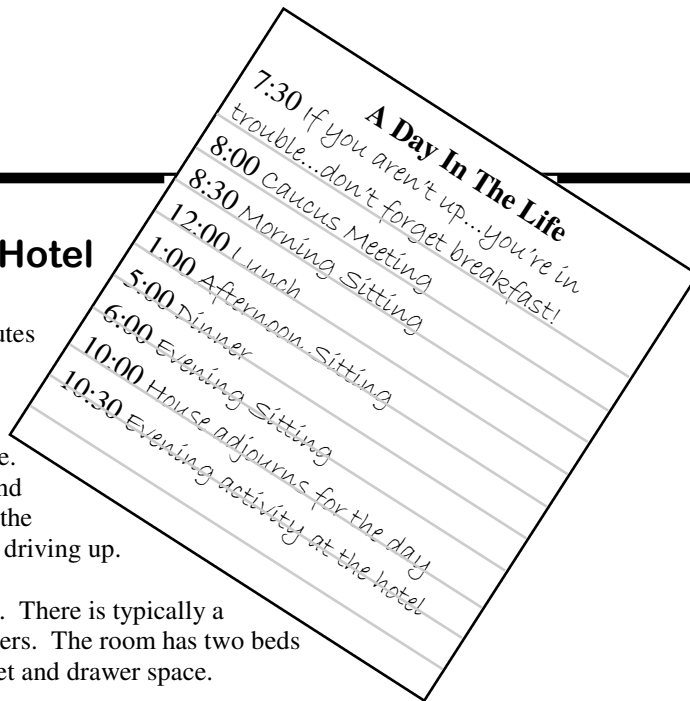
In the middle, or early portion, of the night Parliamentary Mixer: Oh yeah baby, we're talking shoe throwing, clothes line making, teams, snacks and fun! Get to know your roomies and the rest of the members in a night of fun!

Camp Night: Scene: Camp Phoenix, cue burning fire, camp songs, mug up and more. Take a trip to the summer where BCYP makes the lives of children change.



Penny Auction: Help raise money for BCYP, don't forget to bring all your random stuff that others may want to buy. One person's junk is another person's treasure. It's way too much fun.

The Dance: Come shake it up at the Session dance. Professional DJ, new people and great music.



1 Legislation. We write it. You debate it.

There are two types of acts that are debated each year at session.

Annual and Perpetual.

Annual Acts: these are pieces of legislation that BCYP uses to outline activities for the upcoming year. After one year these acts are no longer in effect and must be reintroduced by future Sessions. These Acts include the Parliamentary Activities Act, the Camp Phoenix Act and the Supply Act.

Perpetual Acts: these contain policy and procedural rules to be followed on a long-term basis. These Acts are introduced in their entirety only once and remain in effect until repealed and replaced by a future Session. Since some things need to be updated in these Acts from time to time, there is often an "Amendment Act" which, if passed, makes changes to the primary legislation. Once the changes have been made to the original legislation, an updated or "Consolidated" version is published in the Journal you will receive at the end of Session. Examples of perpetual Acts include the British Columbia Youth Parliament Act, the Ministerial Responsibilities Act, and the Regional Youth Parliaments Act.

2

There is a specific process we follow for debating legislation. It goes as follows:

First Reading – This is the formal introduction of a Bill in the House by a Minister of the Crown. It is largely a formality, during which each Member is given a copy of the proposed Bill. There is no debate at this stage of the process. A majority vote is required for the Bill to continue to...

Second Reading – This is known as "Debate in principle", when the Minister will usually explain the purpose of the Act and Members may debate the general nature of the Bill without delving into specific details contained within the Bill. This is done next in...

Committee of the Whole – This is where things get really interesting! The House goes from being "the House" to being chambers for the Committee. The Speaker leaves the Chair and the Deputy Speaker (DS) is called in to preside over the Committee. During Committee Stage each portion (or clause) of the Bill is examined and debated separately. During this stage, we'll be debating specifics, like if the Bill says there should be "two" apples eaten and you think there should be "four". This is also when new sections can be added. Individual portions of the Bill that you don't agree with can also be "removed" by simply "defeating" the section in question.

For some Acts (specifically, some amendment acts), we go into Standing Committees before Committee of the Whole. These happen out of the House, in smaller groups, and the process is slightly more informal. Things work essentially the same, though, with the committee going through the Act with a fine-toothed comb, discussing each portion of the Act in detail. The Committees then make reports to the House, which are debated by a Committee of the Whole with everyone present. Don't worry if this sounds confusing, it will be explained better at Session.

After we have reviewed the Act in its entirety, we come out of Committee of the Whole and get ready for...

Third Reading – In most cases, this stage is also a formality. At this point, if the House wishes, the Bill can be re-committed to Committee Stage to make further changes (although this very rarely happens). It is a last chance to discuss and vote on the Bill in principle, taking into account any changes made in Committee. If the Bill is not re-committed, and passes Third Reading, the Bill is passed and will receive Royal Assent from the Lieutenant Governor during the Prorogation Ceremony.

I MOVE LEG...LEGI..LEGIS

Writing a Motion – Knowing how to write a motion will be especially handy during a PMR debate or in Committee of the Whole if you want to amend something. There will be slips of paper (known as Motion Papers or Motion Slips) on which you write down specifically what you would like to change (usually in the form of a change in wording), and where you want it changed. You can then stand up and proudly wave your funky motion paper, read the motion when you are recognized, and begin debating the motion itself. Motions, like legislation, are worded in a specific way. Here is an example:

Moved by the Member for Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca that section 2, subsection (1) be amended by striking out “like” and substituting “quite similar to”.

If you look at the sample legislation above, this motion would make section 2, subsection (1) read: “On occasion, there may be subsections quite similar to this.” instead of “On occasion, there may be subsections like this.”

Since there are so MANY different things that can be changed, it is not surprising that there are so MANY different types of motions. There are motions to add words, delete words, replace words (like the motion above), to repeal clauses, to add clauses – you name it, there’s a motion. Because of this, there are many different ways of writing motions that have been used over the years in BCYP. If you have any questions about how to make sure your motion is written in a manner consistent with the current style, please do not hesitate to ask a Cabinet Minister for help!

Legislation

- 1 This is what legislation often looks like.
- 2 (1) On occasion, there may be subsections like this.
 - (2) Sometimes sections or subsections can have paragraphs, like the following:
 - (a) this is a paragraph;
 - (b) the things numbered 1, 2, and 3 in bold are sections;
 - (c) the bolded text before section 1 is a marginal note.
- 3 Sections, subsections, and paragraphs are cited in the following manner:
 - (a) sections as “section 1” or “s.1”;
 - (b) subsections as “section 2, subsection (1)” or “s.2(1)”;
 - (c) paragraphs as “section 2, subsection (2), paragraph (a)” or “s.2(2)(a)”.

Reading Legislation - Legislation is written in a specific style, with sections, subsections, paragraphs and subparagraphs!

See the example above.

There is a variety of purposes served by splitting up a section into these smaller clauses. Often, it is to organize a list or lay out categories of information. With each “provision” contained in its own distinct clause, it is easier to refer to something (by its specific clause) during debate.

This is only the most basic description of the structure of legislation. The best way to understand it is through practice as different examples appear in legislation (do not be afraid to ask for help from Cabinet or Shadow).



what to wear

Or rather...what not to wear. At BCYP you have to keep in mind that you will be sitting in the provincial legislature so dress accordingly. But don't throw that hoodie away now, casual clothing has its place after we've finished our in House work.

Ladies: Dress pants, skirts, blouses, suits. Please remember to wear nylons, and have your shoulders covered.

Gents: Dress pants, suits, ties. To be recognized you have to have your shoulders covered so don't forget a jacket or sweater.

what to bring

In addition to the business attire for the day, keep in mind Victoria is cold in the winter. A warm jacket, gloves, toque, scarf, parka, and umbrella are recommended.

Shoes. Yes a woman's fetish. You need to have shoes that you can walk a few blocks in as well as dress shoes for House activities... nice if they are the same pair...but not mandatory. We are not your parents :)

Although there is a hair dryer and towels in the hotel, you need to remember toiletries and medications.



what to eat

At session you will be responsible for the cost of your own meals.

Lunches are free choice, with the exception of the lunch brought to us by the local women's sorority—Beta Sigma Phi. There are great restaurants within a couple minutes of the legislature, for the rest of the meals.

Dinners are arranged by the Minister of Sessional Affairs (but you are still buying), and you have to go with your group. Breakfast will also be available each morning. Expect to pay about \$8-\$15 per lunch and dinner. So keep in mind you may need \$150-\$175 for meals.



what else

Don't forget items for the week, things like items for the penny auction, a camera for all those quality moments, paper, pens, money, and your ideas!



Speaker: He or she is the one who sits in the large chair at the center of the house. He/she is in charge of deciding “aye” and “nay” votes. Consider him or her the judge of the votes.

Deputy Speaker: He or she subs in for the Speaker during Committee of the Whole, Committee of Supply and when the Speaker is unavailable.

Sergeant-at-Arms: He or she protects the Speaker, and escorts out any members at the wish of the Speaker.

Lieutenant Governor: (pronounced “Leftenant Governor”) He or she is the Queen’s representative in BCYP and has the power to open the Session and prorogue the House. The LG also grants Royal Assent to Bills and Private Members Resolutions passed by the House.



Cabinet: This is the group who sits closest to the Speaker on the Government side. They have written the legislation and are presenting to the House what we will debate. Cabinet Ministers are required to ensure that their duties outlined in the legislation have been fulfilled.

Shadow Cabinet: Led by the Leader of the Opposition, Shadow is there to go over the legislation and if there is anything they feel needs clarification they will be the first to call it. They also will bring levity to the House.

The Members: Oh, that’s you. You are what changes BCYP. The things in BCYP only happen because you, the Members agree, and wish to participate through out the year and make a difference.

words
from
the
house

v o t e

But How do I ...Rock The Vote?

When the Speaker (or DS) has decided that the debate has concluded he or she will put the question and call for the vote. He or she will then ask “Shall the motion/vote/resolution pass?” and all those in favour will say “aye” and all those opposed will say “nay”. The Speaker or DS will then conclude which side received more votes. If unsure, the Speaker or DS will ask for the votes to be called out separately.

v o t e

And now, the Free Vote

Every time you vote in the House, you get to vote for what you want. So what does that mean? You get to exercise your democratic right and you get to decide how BCYP works.

t i e

If there is a tie it is up to the Speaker or DS to take action. They can do a couple different things. They may re-call the vote, this means that they will ask everyone to be very clear and then vote again. However if members disagree with the vote, and if five or more members rise, then it is recognized as the call for **division**.

v o t e

Blah Blah Blah, I wanna talk!

Well of course you can. When the person speaking has finished and has sat down, you can stand up and say “Honourable Speaker” or “Honourable Chair” and wait to be recognized before you start to speak. You will be recognized by your constituency, so remember don’t say names in the House. If you aren’t recognized, don’t worry, just keep trying. Every single member gets the chance to speak to the Speech from The Throne. During PMRs Members can speak once, twice if they are presenting. But don’t get discouraged, you will have plenty of opportunity to get your voice heard.

All those who wish to abstain from voting leave the House and the Sergeant-At-Arms bars the doors. Then all those in favour stand and are counted, then all those opposed. The numbers are tallied, Members let back in, and the results announced.