

# The Speaker



*The Youth Parliament of British Columbia Alumni Society's Official Newsletter* Fall 2003

## Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni,

Reading the news recently, I have found myself thinking of my experiences years ago as a member of BCYP.

A couple weeks ago in the House of Commons, Members of Parliament voted not along party lines, but – as we are all familiar with from Youth Parliament – based on their own personal views, or the views (actual or perceived) of their constituents. The issue reminded me of a Private Members' Resolution – it was an Alliance motion to affirm the traditional definition of marriage – and the outcome was anything but predictable. An amendment was moved to delete a portion of the motion suggesting support for the use of the Notwithstanding Clause, but the motion was defeated on a tie vote, 134-to-134, with the Speaker casting the deciding vote in the negative on procedural grounds. The main motion was then defeated by a razor thin margin, 132-to-137.

Meanwhile, in British Columbia, there hasn't been much suspense of late over votes in the highly lopsided Legislature. But, the Government has commenced a process the outcome of which will be anybody's guess. This Fall, 158 individuals will be selected from across the province – reflecting the gender, age and geographical make-up of British Columbia – to form a Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform. The Assembly, which will not include any politicians or representatives of political parties, will be entrusted with one of the most fundamental issues in our Parliamentary democracy: the structure of our electoral system. The Assembly's recommendations, if approved in a referendum, could result in radical changes to how we elect our MLAs – changes which could (in my humble view) completely revitalize a Parliamentary system which has been stifled by partisan majorities which frequently fail to reflect the broad range of views of the public.

What a tremendous time for young people to become involved in BCYP, and learn first-hand about the traditions of our Parliamentary system, even as that system is going through an exciting evolutionary process! I encourage all of you to take this opportunity to help us recruit members for the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of BCYP!

Best wishes to everyone,

Jason Herbert  
Chair

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## 75<sup>TH</sup> SESSION ALUMNI JUBILEE

**December 27&28, 2003**  
**Legislative Buildings &**  
**Harbour Towers Hotel**  
**Victoria, BC**

Information on page 4 and  
enclosed registration form.

Contact Rhonda Vanderfluit  
for more information  
604-646-6623  
alumni@bcyp.org

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10:00 am Sunday, November 23, 2003

University of British Columbia  
Henry Angus Building, Room 213  
(University Blvd. & Main Mall)

A printable map of the UBC campus can be found here:  
<http://ubc.ca/about/ubcmap.pdf>

## Board of Directors Update:

BCYP's Senate has a few more new and returning student's in its ranks.

**Susie da Silva** having graduated from UBC has been accepted to Broadcast Journalism at BCIT. I know that she will do well because this is definitely Susie's area of strength.

**Negin Mirriahi** having graduated with a BEd from UBC is now taking her Masters of Education. While James Fraser believed that we needed more brick-layers on Senate I have always believed that we needed more teachers on Senate. Way to go Negin.

**Ajay Puri** is working on his Masters of Science at UBC after graduating with his BSc

**Rhonda Vanderfluit** has returned to UBC for one more degree. She is currently loving first year medicine and the return to student life.

There has been a bit of a shuffle on the Senate Executive. **Kerry Simmons** has now taken over **Registrar** from Rhonda since she has gone back to school. This has also resulted in **Negin Mirriahi** taking over the position of **Chief Returning Officer** from Kerry. The success of Session depends so much on the hard work of the CRO, Registrar and Executive Director and I am personally very grateful that we have such talented and hard-working people in these positions.

## Recruitment for 75<sup>th</sup> British Columbia Youth Parliament, Parliamentary Session

I am writing to you in my capacity as Registrar for BC Youth Parliament. Application forms have been mailed to the social studies department head of every school with 16 and 17 year olds in B.C as well as MLA offices and long-time supporters of BCYP.

I'm asking you to assist BCYP with its membership recruitment efforts by speaking to parents, teachers, colleagues or students who are in contact with 16-21 year olds who would enjoy participating in BCYP. The number of applicants to BCYP has declined in the recent years and most drastically on Vancouver Island. The Alumni Society is seeking your assistance in this small way to ensure the continued success of Youth Parliament. Think about how you benefitted from BCYP. I'm sure you'll agree that the experience can be valuable and provide future opportunities.

Application forms can be accessed on the BCYP website [www.bcorp.org](http://www.bcorp.org) under the link "Session". The deadline is October 21, 2003. A hard copy of the application form is also included with this newsletter. Please feel free to copy it and pass it on. I sincerely appreciate your help.

If you or those to whom you speak have any questions, please contact me by email or phone (250-413-3312). Thank you for your help!

Kerry Simmons  
Registrar, 75<sup>th</sup> BCYP

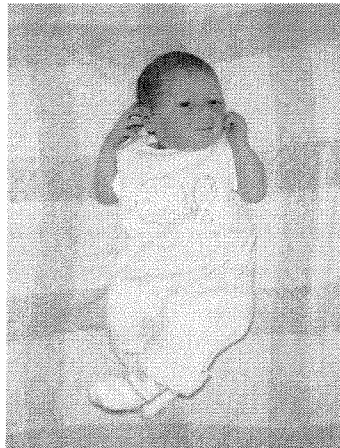
## Alumni Update:

UBC Medicine is keeping up with the faculty of law with the number of BCYP alumni in its ranks. **Pamela Liu** (69<sup>th</sup> & 70<sup>th</sup> BCYPs) joins Rhonda Vanderfluit in the first year class. **Paul Yong** (68<sup>th</sup> – 70<sup>th</sup> BCYPs) is still working on his MD/PhD and is now officially in the second year class with **Katie Longworth** (66<sup>th</sup> – 70<sup>th</sup> BCYPs; Premier, 70<sup>th</sup> BCYP).

Recently I received an email from **Tracy Tang** updating us on her comings and goings. Tracy was a member of the 64<sup>th</sup> BCYP and Critic for RYPs and Critic for Service Projects for the 65<sup>th</sup> BCYP. She is currently living in Victoria and works for the Public Affairs Bureau with the Ministry of Energy and Mines. She was acting Executive Director of the 74<sup>th</sup> BCYP and did a fantastic job.

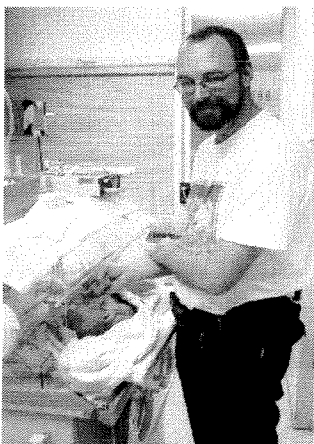
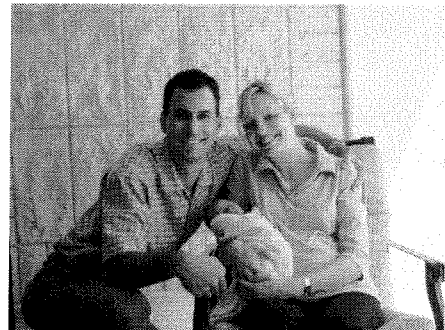
**Simon Jackson** (70<sup>th</sup> BCYP) was in the news lately (*Nothing ordinary about bear's defender* – Vancouver Sun; Tuesday, September 16, 2003). Simon has been a long-time advocate for the Kermode Bear (aka Spirit Bear) and was featured previously in *Time Magazine* as one of 60 heroes of the planet. (Incidentally the Kermode bear was the unofficial mascot of the Interior of BCYP for many years.) Simon has recently announced plans to release an animated feature film in the Spring of 2006 to raise money to preserve the bears' 250 000 hectare habitat on the North Coast of BC.

## Baby Update (Parliamentarians in Training)



**Darlene (Klempner) Bulteel** (59<sup>th</sup> – 62<sup>nd</sup> Sessions) and her husband Steve are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter **Solana Telia Bulteel**, born Saturday, September 27th, 2003 at 1:35 am in Hong Kong  
2.95 kg    6 lb 8 oz  
49 cm    19¼ in

Congratulations Darlene and Steve!



**Johann Beda** (56<sup>th</sup> – 60<sup>th</sup> Sessions) & his wife Rachel are very pleased to announce the birth of their second son, **Jan Francis Beda** (who they have been calling "Jack"), at 5:30 AM on Friday, September 19, 2003. Jen weighed in at 8 lbs 1.2 oz (3.665 kg) and a length of about 21.5" (55 cm). Johann and Rachel live in Peterborough, Ontario with Robert age 3 and their new son Jan.



# BCYP 75<sup>th</sup> Session Alumni Jubilee

You and your guests are cordially invited to Victoria, BC for an Alumni Jubilee celebrating the 75th Session of the British Columbia Youth Parliament. Come renew old friendships and enjoy yet another "Last Hurrah" in the Legislative Chambers!

## Saturday, December 27 Events

3:00 PM: Watch Oath signing & Opening Ceremonies for 75<sup>th</sup> BCYP from Legislative Assembly Visitors' Gallery

5:00 PM: Informal dinner with other alumni, downtown Victoria restaurant, location TBA

7:00 PM: Watch Question Period for 75<sup>th</sup> BCYP from Visitors' Gallery

8:00 PM: Alumni Wine & Cheese reception, Ned de Beck Lounge, Legislative Assembly

## Sunday, December 28 Events

11:00 AM: Alumni Reunion and Brunch at Harbour Towers Hotel

*Featuring Guest Speaker **Dan Burnett** (50<sup>th</sup> - 55<sup>th</sup> Sessions)*

1:00 PM: Alumni Model Parliament (XYP) in the Legislative Chambers

3:30 PM: Photos and Farewell

To register please complete the enclosed form by **November 15, 2003** and send to:

BCYP 75<sup>th</sup> Session Alumni Jubilee  
#502 - 819 Hamilton Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 6M2

There are a limited number of hotel rooms set aside for participants in the BCYP 75<sup>th</sup> Session Alumni Jubilee. For details please see the information sheet attached to the enclosed registration form.

If you know other alumni who are not members of the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society and are therefore not on our mailing list, please pass on the information about the jubilee celebration.

For more information please contact:

Rhonda Vanderfluit  
Alumni Affairs Director, Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society  
604-646-6623  
alumni@bcyp.org



## BCYP Update: Camp Phoenix 2003

The 35<sup>th</sup> Camp Phoenix was held from Saturday, August 23 to Friday, August 29 2003 at Camp Kwomais in Surrey, B.C. Site facilities included a kitchen, dining hall, gymnasium, outdoor swimming pool, sports field, washhouses and cabins with indoor lighting for staff members and campers. Camp Phoenix previously used this site in 2001.

There were 37 staff members available throughout the week to ensure that a high cabin leader to camper ratio was in place and that 40 campers had an experience they will never forget. The campers were primarily accepted from the Lower Mainland. The camp theme was "African Safari" and the program activities throughout the week included: arts and crafts, land sports, outdoor adventures and archery, laboratory, playground, aquatics, story time, campfire and theatre. The additional activities implemented in the schedule this year provided more options for campers. Outdoor Adventures featured a sleep under the stars which occurred on the evening of August 27, 2003.

Marion Young acted as the Camp Director. She is an elementary school teacher in Surrey and has been involved in the education system for 17 years. She became aware of B.C. Youth Parliament and camp through her daughter, who is a member. Marion provided a great resource for the staff members and was an invaluable asset to camp. Anne Sanderson returned for her third time as camp cook. Trish Rivers came to camp as the Registered Nurse and First Aid Attendant. All non-BCYP staff members had an affiliation with the organization prior to camp. Key components of camp from Youth Parliament included: Nicole Stewart, Camp Administrator; Aniz Alani, Assistant Camp Administrator; Emily-Anne Paul, Program Director; Dora Turje, Waterfront Director.

A great deal of appreciation is extended to Senate and alumni who assisted in the execution of camp this year. Kerry Simmons played a vital role in camp acting as Chair of the Camp Steering Committee, taking the initiative to train staff and offering an immense amount of support to the Camp Administrator. Thank you to the Camp Steering Committee, Rhonda Vanderfluit and all other characters who expended a large amount of time to make certain that camp would be a safe and enjoyable experience for all involved.

Nicole Stewart  
Minister of Camp Phoenix and Camp Administrator, 74<sup>th</sup> BCYP



## Alumni Update Form/Change of address form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Session/Former Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Your news/ new address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form to:

**Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society**

c/o Rhonda Vanderfluit

#502 – 819 Hamilton St

Vancouver, BC V6B 6M2

Or email me at:

**alumni@bcyp.org**

## The Alumni Society Needs Your Support!

For decades, the **Youth Parliament of BC 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.

Alumni contributions to BCYP, such as participation in the **Sweet Dreams Auction** are of tremendous help to keep initiatives like **Camp Phoenix** alive, we hope to see you there!

We would also ask at this time that you consider donating to the **Alumni Society** to help us make this year's parliamentary **Session** a success.

Making a donation to the **Youth Parliament of BC 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 help 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_