

THE SPEAKER

Fall 2008
79th Session, Issue 2

News from the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society

Message from the Chair

We are pleased to advise that once again, the Coast Capital Savings Foundation has made a grant to the Society in the amount of \$15,000. This generous contribution allows the Society to reduce the registration fee enabling more young people to apply to Youth Parliament. I encourage you to read the Financial Report.

I invite you to attend our AGM on November 22, 2008. Details are elsewhere in the notice. The AGM is an excellent opportunity to hear about the developments in Youth Parliament and in the Society and keep up to date with the progress the organization is making. Let me share a bit of that with you now.

In May 2005 the Board engaged in strategic planning with a focus on fundraising opportunities to ensure the financial viability and sustainability of the Society and BCYP membership. In July 2007, the Board, together with

INSIDE THE SPEAKER

Message from the Registrar	2
Message from the Chair (cont.)	2
Alumni Society Needs Your Help	2
From the Premier	3
Speaker in your Inbox	3
Finance Report	4
Did you know the BCYP can run in the Family?	4

BCYP members, focused its discussion on Session and what changes would be appropriate to ensure that members' experience at Session is of the highest quality, and that it remains relevant and engaging.

A few changes were made to Session in 2007 and a sub-committee of the Board with the Premier and Premier-elect has continued to review many initiatives and proposals with a view to implementing those for Session in 2008. *(continued on page 2)*

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society

Saturday, November 22nd, 2008
10:00 am, University of British Columbia
Meekison Arts Students Space, Buchanan D

- Year-end Reports of Executive and Committees
- Approval of Annual Financial Statements
- Ratification of Activities of Board
- Election of Board of Directors

Proposed Resolutions:

1. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the address of the Registered and Records Office of the Society be changed to 7th Floor, 1175 Douglas Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2E1.
2. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the operational and historical records of the Society may be stored at any of the following:
7th Floor, 1175 Douglas Street, Victoria BC V8W 2E1
6822 Veyaness Road, Saanichton, BC V8M 2A8
2- 3139 Smith Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5G 2S8

Senate Meeting to Follow

If you would like to join the Board of Directors, please contact Kerry Simmons at 250-480-9145 or kerrysimmons@hotmail.com

Message from the Registrar

Dear Alumni,

Yet again, the calendar has rolled around to recruitment season for the upcoming Session of youth parliament. You will find a copy of the application form for the 80th British Columbia Youth Parliament enclosed with this edition of *The Speaker*. If you know any young people aged 16-21 who might be interested in joining BCYP, please pass on the form. There is also a soft copy of the form available at www.bryp.org/session, along with copies of a promotional brochure and poster about youth parliament. I truly appreciate any personal contacts for recruitment you may be able to make. If you would like more copies of the form or copies of the brochure or poster, or if you have any other questions or comments, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at registrar@bryp.org or by phone at 604-728-0446.

Yours in Parliament,
Dora Turje
Registrar

Message from the Chair

(continued from Page 1)

Following the AGM in November, the Board will meet to wrap up its review of changes and work required to improve Session and will begin to look at the roles and responsibilities of directors with a view to ensuring that directors fill the needs of the Society and receive the education and support required to carry out our obligations.

By the time you receive the notice, the membership deadline for BCYP (October 22) will be fast approaching. Please encourage potential members to apply. The easiest way is to go to the website www.bryp.org to print an application for completion.

Kerry Simmons
Chair, Board of Directors

The Alumni Society Needs Your Help!

We would also ask at this time that you consider donating to the Alumni Society to help us make next year's session a success. As the official sponsor, we organize and resource the annual session for youth from across the province. Making a donation to the Youth Parliament Alumni Society ensures that young people from around the province can participate in an organization that benefits not only themselves but also their community.

Please send your donation (a cheque payable to *Youth Parliament of BC Fund*) to:

The Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society, c/o Rahim Meghji
2 - 3139 Smith Avenue
Burnaby, BC V5G 2S8

Visit Us Online:

<http://www.bryp.org>

From the Premier...

Greetings from the 79th Youth Parliament!

This year has been an interesting one for youth parliament and its events. It has had its share of successes and there have also been some experiences that I think everyone in youth parliament can learn from and build off of for next year. I would like to start off by saying that I was extremely happy with the way that our Regional Youth Parliaments ran this year. Normally this is a ministry that does not have the effort put into it that is needed for success. This year however, my Minister of Regional Youth Parliaments, Sasa Pudar and all of the Members in our organization ensured that we could run all five of our regional parliaments. In particular we were able to run the Kootney Youth Parliament and the Vancouver Island Youth Parliament, both of which have not run in quite a few years. All of the Members in the organization should be proud of this and I am hoping that the strong support for Youth Parliament initiatives in the Interior and on the Island continues into the 80th Session.

Secondly, this year we had a large number of Members who submitted donation totals well above the \$125 mark. In particular we had one Member from the Interior, Alden Chow, who submitted a donation total of \$1,221.11. Thanks to their contributions, BCYP and Camp are in good financial standing for next year. Coupled with these fundraising initiatives were many service projects that were also carried out around the province and I am very please at the level of involvement this year. At last weeks Membership Review, 45 people passed the review and I think it shows the high level of involvement of most Members. Unfortunately this year we also had a few set backs. Neither Auction nor Camp ran this year. For Auction we were unable to secure enough tickets to warrant running the event and for Camp we lacked both the minimum number of camper applications as well as a cook. These circumstances were out of the ordinary for both the Ministry of Community Fundraising and Camp Phoenix, but this does not mean that these projects are not feasible. My thanks goes out to Tyler Allison, Camp Administrator and Jeremy McElroy, Auction Minister, for their efforts. Already much work has been underway to ensure that these two events are successful in the 80th Session. I think what both these set backs taught the organization is that it takes everyone in the organization, from first year to sixth year, to make these projects run. I am looking forward to the 80th Session and the year ahead for next year's parliamentarians. I have every confidence that these projects are both going to be run well in 2009.

Finally, this is my last year in Parliament and I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. My involvement as a Member and as head of various ministries has taught me a lot about myself and about working with others. I have made many friends and met some of the most amazing individuals, who have truly inspired me. It has been one of the best things I have ever been involved with and I will preach that to anyone at all interested in this organization! Thank you!

Laurel Hogg
Premier

The Speaker in your Inbox

If you would like to receive your next copy of The Speaker electronically via E-mail rather than by snail mail, please send the Director of Alumni Affairs (alumni.affairs@bcyp.org) an e-mail indicating your full name, current mailing address, and e-mail address. The Alumni Society of the BC Youth Parliament maintains complete confidentiality and does not sell or trade any names, addresses or alumni information. All information you supply is kept confidential and secure and will be used to distribute the Society's official newsletter and information about the BC Youth Parliament. The Speaker will be sent to you as a .pdf document and will require Adobe Acrobat Reader (free to download) to view it.

Finance Report

This past year, due to increased financial support from the Coast Capital Savings Foundation and the Victoria Foundation, the Society was able to offer a lower registration fee to BCYP members in the amount of \$150, instead of \$280. The Society was also able to offer additional financial assistance to individual members.

The projected surplus for the 2007-08 year is approximately \$5,500, \$2000 of which will be deposited to the Youth Parliament Fund at the Victoria Foundation to increase that fund's balance to approximately \$15,000.

We are grateful to have received for 2008-09 a grant of \$15,000 again from the Coast Capital Savings Foundation. The Victoria Foundation's granting process and the timing of that process changed this year and at the time the registration fee was set, that Foundation had not yet made its decision.

Accordingly the registration fee for the 80th Session was set at \$225. Given the Society's anticipated

surplus, at our Senate meeting in September, it was resolved to provide a \$25 refund to the organizations and individuals paying the registration fee for members.

The detailed financial statements for the year ending September 30, 2008 will be available at the AGM.

Over the upcoming year the Society will examine the Reserve Fund, a joint Society/Parliament fund for emergencies. The Fund has not been accessed for many years and previous attempts at accessing the fund have been denied. Together with Youth Parliament, the Society will review the terms of access for the Reserve Fund as well as consider the investment possibilities for the Fund. Its current balance is approximately \$11,000.

Inquiries about the Society's finances can be directed to our Treasurer, Rahim Meghji at rmeghji@gmail.com.

Did you know that joining BCYP could run in the family?

David and Jeff Wilson

David was a member of BCYP for five sessions, from December 1972 to 1977, serving as Minister of Finance for the 44th and 45th sessions and Premier for his final session, the 46th. He was then a member of the Senate for several years, serving, variously, as Press Secretary, Chief Returning Officer and Executive Director. He met his wife Ruth, who had been a member of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba from 1975 to 1978, at organisational meetings for the first National Youth Parliament in 1980.

Jeff is going into his second year as a member of BCYP, and has also been a member of the North Shore Youth Parliament for two years now. In the past year, as a first-year member of BCYP, he served as the Leader of the Opposition of the 17th NSYP and was elected as Premier for the 18th NSYP. Jeff's enthusiasm for both the serious and lighter sides of debate, as well as his parliamentary antecedents (connected to BCYP through his father, and well-connected to YPM through his mother, uncles, and grandfather), will serve him well as he continues to look for new ways to get involved with BCYP.