

The mission of the Youth Parliament of British Columbia Alumni Society is to ensure the continuity of BC Youth Parliament in order to provide opportunities for youth in British Columbia to experience the parliamentary process and to learn about the value of citizenship.

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The Speaker

YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ALUMNI SOCIETY

Message From The Chair



As you read this, we are selecting the new members for the 81st Parliament and in the middle of planning for the annual Session. Now more than ever, we rely on the long-standing positive reputation of BCYP to ensure that we will continue to enjoy the use of the Legislature, the support of Beta Sigma Phi and the Provincial Capital Commission, and the generosity of Coast Capital Savings, the Victoria Foundation and private donors to supplement our endowment funds and registration fees. None of this do we take for granted.

Like all non-profit organizations, the Society is very much aware of the limited funding available to sustain projects such as ours. We are grateful for the foresight of Senators before us who established the Walter S. Owen Fund, streamlined our processes for recruitment and

secured positive relationships with our supporters.

In furtherance of our goals to ensure that young people have the opportunity to debate, learn about parliament and be inspired to community service, this year's Session will include workshops on debating and events planning. Working with BCYP's leadership, the Board is proactively improving elements of Session to ensure that the quality of experience there leads to successful events throughout the year and enhances the reputation of BCYP.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our Board members. I thank each and every one of them for giving their time and expertise. Many on the Board embrace the principle, "to whom much is given, much is expected". The Society is fortunate that these people view their experience in BCYP as a place where their early skills in leadership, debate, and communication were developed, and that they feel a responsibility to give of their time and talent to this organization.

We continue to need the support of our alumni, particularly in the area of ad hoc advice or instances of additional support on short notice. Our thanks to Jason Herbert and Linda Reid who quickly responded to our requests for letters of support in our grant application to Coast Capital Savings. Their letters, together with one from Parker MacCarthy, Q.C., a former BCYP Lieutenant Governor, enabled us to secure a grant of \$13,500. If you are willing to be available for occasional assistance, please let me or any of our Board of Directors know.

On a final note, we wish outgoing Senator, Natalie Hepburn-Barnes, and her husband, Adam, best wishes on the safe arrival of Spencer this past August. Spencer joins the many other babies of alumni who hopefully will be able to attend a future Session of BCYP.

Did you know?

If you're reading this as a PDF on your computer, every email address and website address in this newsletter is an interactive link!

Just click on an email address to send a note or website address to check out that webpage!

Message from the Fundraising Committee

Fundraising for Session has gone extremely well this year! We have received generous contributions from Victoria Foundation, BC Transmission Corporation, and Coast Capital Savings.

Victoria Foundation provided us with \$2,250 that could be used to benefit recruitment in Victoria and the surrounding area. The South Island Membership Project consisted of advertising in the region and lowering up to 10 South Island Members' registration fees by \$100 each.

The advertising campaign consisted of a combination of \$200 in targeted Facebook ads and \$1,000 worth of print ads, which were placed in Oak Bay News, Goldstream Gazette, Victoria News, Saanich News and Peninsula News Review.

British Columbia Transmission Corporation's TransConnect program generously provided \$1,500 to the Society to help defray the costs of Session. An article about BCYP was also featured in BCTC's employee newsletter.

Our largest contributor, Coast Capital Savings, has been incredibly generous, donating \$13,500 towards Session. We are grateful for the Letters of Support we received from alumni members Jason Herbert, Parker MacCarthy QC, Sue Fournier from Beta Sigma Phi, and MLA Linda Reid. The Society extends its sincere appreciation to Coast Capital Savings and we look forward to working with them in the upcoming year.



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

10:00 am, Saturday, November 28, 2009

Room 260, Irving K Barber Learning Centre

University of British Columbia, 1961 East Mall, Vancouver, BC

(A map of UBC available at <http://www.maps.ubc.ca/PROD/index.php>)

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- Approval of Annual Financial Statements
 - Ratification of Activities of the Board
 - Election of Board of Directors

Senate Meeting to follow

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

Message from the Minister of Camp Phoenix

I'm pleased to announce that Camp Phoenix 2009 ran this past summer, and that it went smoothly with relatively few hiccups over the entirety of the week.

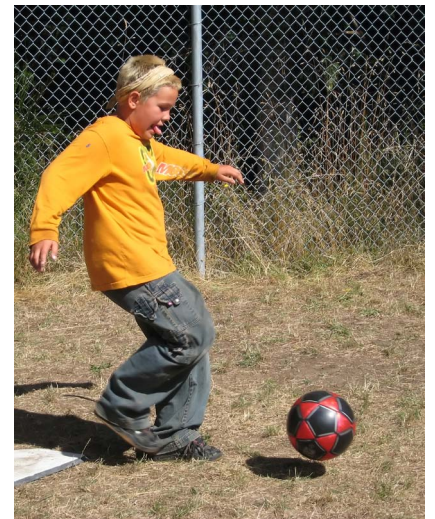
The theme this year was Space and we blasted off full speed ahead on August 22nd when the staff arrived at Camp Kawkawa in Hope. The campers arrived on August 24th, and had 5 fun-filled days at Camp Phoenix where they could kayak, do archery, play on the water trampoline, make crafts, sing campfire songs and enjoy a wide assortment of games. 43 children who otherwise would not have been able to attend a summer camp had the opportunity to do so. Many of these campers had never before experienced anything like Camp Phoenix, and knowing this the staff worked hard to ensure that this would be an experience they would remember for the rest of their lives.

I'd like to thank the staff, several of whom were alumni, for sharing in the success of Camp Phoenix. This year was a difficult one with fewer returning staff than previous years due to Camp Phoenix not running last year, as well as due to the economic crisis and its affect on donations and grants. The people who donated their time and their money to continue the proud tradition that the BC Youth Parliament has in sponsoring such an extraordinary project are so vital to our success.

We have already begun preparations for Camp Phoenix 2010, and I am fully confident that the new Minister of Camp Phoenix, Karen Ratchford, will surpass all expectations and that our organization will once again run an extraordinary Camp.

Sincerely,

Sasa Pudar
Camp Administrator
Camp Phoenix 2009



Message from the Premier of the 81st BCYP

It is my honour to continue in the tradition of so many youth parliamentarians before me in serving as the Premier of the British Columbia Youth Parliament. My Cabinet has already begun planning out the next year and working with out-going Ministers to determine what went well and why certain projects failed over the past year. We have very ambitious plans for the 81st British Columbia Youth Parliament, though I believe they are within the bounds of reason as well as the financial and labour constraints organizations such as ours always have.

Though I'd prefer not to comment specifically on the various projects we are planning until our consultative development process has been completed, I will say that we are planning to run Camp Phoenix, up to 6 Regional Youth Parliaments, and a revamped Community Fundraising project with an auction component built on the lessons learned from past successes and failures. These plans will be presented in more detail during the Annual General Meeting and ensuing Senate meeting in November.

Sincerely,

Sasa Pudar
Premier
81st British Columbia Youth Parliament

THE ALUMNI SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR HELP

For decades, the Youth Parliament Alumni Society has provided valuable support for BCYP. As the official sponsor, we organize and resource the annual session in Victoria for youth from across our province.

Your donation to the Youth Parliament Alumni Society ensures that young people from around our province can participate in an organization that benefits not only themselves, but also their community.

Donations can be made by cheque, payable to Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society, and sent to: The Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society
c/o Rahim Meghji, Treasurer
2 – 3139 Smith Avenue, Burnaby, BC, V5G 2S8

The Speaker is Going Green!

We are doing our part to minimize our carbon footprint by reducing the number of mailed out print copies of this newsletter. In 2010, *THE SPEAKER* will be available in electronic format via email and on the Alumni Society's website (<http://bcyp.org/alumni/alumni.html>).

If you currently receive this newsletter in print by mail, you can switch to the electronic format by sending your request to alumni.affairs@bcyp.org. Upon doing so, the next issue of *THE SPEAKER* will be sent to you as a PDF document and will require the most recent version of Adobe Acrobat Reader to view (free download at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>).

The Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society 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.

Have you recently moved or are you moving in the near future?

Do you know a BCYP Alumni member who wants to receive this newsletter?

Email: alumni.affairs@bcyp.org

Address: THE SPEAKER - c/o Jenn Jay, Alumni Affairs Director
201-1425 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver, BC, V6H 1J8

VISIT US ONLINE!

Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society's website: www.bcyp.org/alumni

Click below to join the Alumni Facebook Group!
"BC Youth Parliament Alumni"

THE SPEAKER