



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



At our Annual General Meeting in November, the Board of Directors welcomed four new Senators (all former Camp ministers) which generated much enthusiasm on the Board. Aniz Alani, Susie da Silva, Emily-Anne Paul, and Nicole Stewart joined the team bringing with them energy, time and new ideas to the table.

Aniz was the Premier of the 73rd Session in 2001 (also Camp Minister in 2001) and is now Corporate Counsel at the BC Transmission Commission in

Vancouver. Through TransConnect, the BCTC has donated \$1500 to the Alumni Society. Thank you very much!

Susie da Silva is a former Camp Minister serving in the 73rd Session in 2002. She is now a television reporter for CBC News and is currently the Surrey and Fraser Valley video journalist. Susie has continued her passion for service by volunteering with Summits of Hope raising money for BC Children's Hospital. Her treks include Mt. Everest Base Camp and Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Emily-Anne Paul was Premier of the 77th Session in 2005 and Camp Minister in 2005. She is currently a Legislative Intern and is completing her M.A. in Political Science at SFU, dividing her time between Vancouver and Victoria.

Nicole Stewart was the Camp Minister in 2003. She now operates a PR agency catering to fashion, beauty and lifestyle clients. She also manages GLOSSmag.ca. Recently she became engaged to Aniz Alani. Congratulations Nicole and Aniz!

With these four joining Senate, we said good bye to Alan Ip, Sang-Kiet Ly, Bea McCutcheon, and Simon Philp. Each of these Senators made a lasting contribution to Senate and we are very grateful for the time and expertise they gave to the organization and the members of BCYP. We appreciate the challenges Alan put to the Board in examining and clarifying the role of the CRO at Session and our approach to supervision and risk management. Sang provided many years of strong accounting and management advice, having acted as Treasurer for many years. Bea led and was a member of the Camp Steering Committee, offering practical and prudent advice to many Camp Ministers as well as the Chair of Senate. We wish Sang well in his upcoming marriage to Andrea and wish Bea and her husband, Rick, all the joys of parenthood with Eleanor Grace who arrived in November 2008.

Simon Philp joined Senate in 2000 and contributed strongly to our fundraising efforts, strategic planning and risk management. I especially want to thank Simon for our discussions about succession planning, and building and managing the talents and interests of our Board members. Your encouragement made a difference. Thank you!

In further exciting news on Senate, we are happy to hear that Natalie Barnes and her husband, Adam, are expecting their first baby in August!

Elsewhere in the Speaker you will read about Session and I must express the Board's thanks to Chris McElroy for serving as Speaker for the second time (the first was in 1986). Chris, you did a fabulous job and it was a pleasure having you at Session. Our Lieutenant Governor was Robert Wicks, C.A. and Chair of the Coast Capital Savings Foundation. Mr. Wicks has a strong history of community and professional service in Victoria and expressed his appreciation for our organization's work.

My comments would not be complete without expressing our thanks to the Coast Capital Savings Foundation for its grant of \$15,000, to the Victoria Foundation for its grant to assist the Board in improving membership at Session from southern Vancouver Island, and the Pacific Coach Lines for again providing us with a price reduction in transportation. Our organization relies heavily on such contributions and we truly appreciate the generosity of these organizations.

Unfortunately, the Coast Capital Savings Foundation has wound up and revenues from our funds at the Victoria Foundation and Vancouver Foundation have been affected by low interest rates and investment losses. The Board of Directors has accepted the continuing challenge of reducing costs and finding new sources of funding to keep the registration fee reasonable for members and this issue continues to be a priority for the organization. We welcome your ideas and comments on this point which you can send to me at kerrysimmons@hotmail.com.

Did you know?

If you're reading this as a PDF on your computer, every email address and website URL in this newsletter is an interactive link! Just click on an email address to send a note or a URL to check out a webpage!

The Treasurer

As we all know, the Alumni Society sponsors the BC Youth Parliament session every year as its primary activity. The sponsoring of BCYP is no easy task, from organizing logistics to get 90 members from across the province to Victoria, to organizing hotel stays, to doing hall patrols in the hotel at Session.

The financial cost of session has grown astronomically to approximately \$36,000 or about \$400 per member. Over the last couple of years we have received generous financial contributions from the Coast Capital Foundation (\$15,000) and our two Endowment Funds (\$11,000), such as the Walter S. Owen Fund at the Vancouver Foundation, allowing us to keep our registration fee between \$155-200 or approximately 50% of the actual cost. We have also been able to offer a number of bursaries to fully offset the cost of session for some members. Unfortunately, the Coast Capital Foundation dissolved in 2008 and it is uncertain as to whether we will receive further support from their successor organization. In addition, the Owen Fund at the Vancouver Foundation has declined in value by approximately 15% or \$30,000 which means that their existing contribution to the Society may decrease substantially in the upcoming year.

Despite this unfortunate turn in events, the Board of Directors is still committed to keeping the registration fee as low as possible, but we need your help! Members are going to be asking for bursaries and reduced fees now more than ever due to the economic downturn. In order to keep the fees as low as possible, a donation of any amount can help the Society achieve its goal. You can donate by sending a cheque or money order (payable to Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society) to Rahim Meghji, #2-3139 Smith Avenue, Burnaby BC, V5G 2S8

A Special Thank You

The Board of Directors, on behalf of the Alumni Society, would like to extend their gratitude to the following retiring Senators:

Alan Ip

Sang-Kiet Ly

Bea McCutcheon

Simon Philp

Their dedication and service to the organisation and Alumni Society have been invaluable and will be missed. We wish them all the best.

The Executive Director

Session 2008 was a tremendous success! This year there were fewer changes to the sessional schedule than in past years, but members seemed to appreciate the stability as well as their favourite activities. The members arrived on December 27th to the Harbour Towers Hotel in downtown Victoria. They proceeded to the legislature for a welcome event in the Ned de Beck members' lounge. After the opening ceremonies and traditional reply-to-the-speech-from-the-throne speeches, the members capped off their first day with a night of mixers at the hotel.

The second day of session, December 28th, featured lunch provided by the Beta Sigma Phi. The Beta Sigma Phi have been providing lunch for the parliamentarians since 1974 when BCYP first admitted women. For the ladies of the Beta Sigma Phi, fundraising and organizing this luncheon represents one of their larger service projects in the Victoria area. The sandwiches, fruit and desserts were enjoyed by all.

December 30th began with regional workshops on service, auction and fundraising (the "bonds" for the older alumni) at the legislature and a trip to Government House. This is the 60th year that the parliamentarians have visited Government House for a tour. This year, departing from tradition, members traveled to Government House by bus rather than by an armada of cabs. Members (and organizers) appreciated the change. In the evening, the Provincial Capital Commission (PCC) sponsored for the third time a closing banquet and awards dinner for the members of youth parliament. The PCC has a mandate to celebrate and connect the capital with all British Columbians. The dinner was held at the hotel and featured an entertaining presentation by the director of outreach on the history

and significance of the capital. Members had a great time, and the day concluded with a dance at the hotel.

Session continues to be the highlight of the parliamentary year for most members, as well as being the Alumni Society's largest contribution to leadership development in youth parliament. By continually striving to improve the sessional experience for members, the Board is making a conscious effort not to "rest on our laurels" but rather to explore new ways to make December 27-31 the best days of the year for 95 young people!

The Registrar

At Session this year we had 91 members, close to a full House despite weather-related travel issues. We were also close to an even regional spread, although applications from Vancouver Island (particularly north of greater Victoria) were down this year. The registration fee this year was higher than last year (this year's fee was published as \$225, although \$25 refunds were given to all members because of changes in the Society's projected financial situation between July and September), but was not as high as two years ago and more applications than the number of seats were received. Young people across BC continue to be interested in what BCYP offers, and the Board is continuing to seek further sources of grant funds and solicit donations from alumni and the community in order to be able to keep the registration fee as low as possible from year to year.

Of this year's 91 members, 56 were from the Lower Mainland, 25 from the Interior, and 10 from Vancouver Island. This represents another year of only being two short of the possible Interior quota. Recruitment goals for next year include increasing representation from the Thompson-Okanagan, central and north Island, and Surrey. I would greatly appreciate if any alumni with contacts in those areas, or specific ideas for organisations to approach, could get in touch with me. Interesting facts about this year's membership is that it includes two pairs of siblings, two new members who are siblings of former members, and four children of YP alumni.



This year, as for many years now, transportation of Lower Mainland and Interior members between Vancouver and Victoria was arranged with Pacific Coach Lines. A special "thank you" is due to PCL for providing the Society with a generous discount on the charter rate for their surfaces, allowing us to continue to provide members with a comfortable and efficient travel experience. PCL's excellent service and generosity is greatly appreciated.

2008 Award Recipients	“The Fisi Award For Service”	“The Inspiring New Member Award”	“The BC Youth Parliament Bond Shield”
	Sasa Pudar of Burnaby	Gordon Hall of Pitt Meadows	Alden Chow of Prince Rupert
	<i>In memory of Monica Fisi who passed away in 1990 from leukemia, this award is given each year to the most deserving Parliamentarian who has overcome personal adversity in undertaking their service activities.</i>	<i>This award is presented annually to a second year Member who made the greatest contribution to Youth Parliament projects during their inaugural year.</i>	<i>The BCYP Bond Shield award is given each year to the Member of the Session who has raised the most money through the sale of bonds. Money raised through the sale of BCYP bonds pays for the service and educational projects that make Youth Parliament such a unique experience.</i>

The Premier

Hello BCYP Alumni! This 80th session has been going very well so far. Our week in Victoria this December was full of some of the most lively debate I've seen in my time in Parliament; the members were keen and interested and learned very quickly. Among the legislation we passed was a brand new Regional Youth Parliament Act, designed to streamline the charter process, and the reinstatement of regional committees, to increase member participation and involvement in our projects.

In the land of regionals, things have never been better. So far this year, the Vancouver Youth Parliament celebrated its 22nd Session and the North Shore Youth Parliament, once again, was successful. Currently being planned are the Lower Mainland East Youth Parliament and the Vancouver Island Youth Parliament. There is also the potential for a regional in Northern BC Youth Parliament. All in all, this ministry is thriving and we are extremely proud of the work we've been able to do through it.

Last year was a trying one as both our major projects, Camp Phoenix and Sweet Dreams Auction, both failed. This year, we will attempt them again in new forms. Camp Phoenix remains much the same but with a change of scenery. This year, Camp will be held at



Camp Kawkawa in Hope. We hope that this change from Gabriola Island will help to stimulate camper recruitment. As for Auction, we are departing the traditional dinner/dessert format and, instead, we are organizing the Sweet Dreams Fashion Show and Auction. Featuring clothing from local Vancouver designers, this project will run on the 6th of June and is sure to be something special. We hope that this new approach to Auction will encourage members of our alumni to come out and support the organization, and to see what Parliament is up to these days.

As always, we love to see BCYP Alumni at our events and show interest in what Parliament is doing. That said, we encourage anyone with questions to contact us. I can be reached at (604)765-3408 or at tyler.allison@bcyp.org and am always happy to chat.

Minister of Community Fundraising

As you have already heard from Tyler, we are doing something a little different this year with our Community Fundraising project.

On June 6th, at Dollhouse Studios in Vancouver, BCYP is hosting the Sweet Dreams Fashion Show and Auction. The fashion show portion will be showcasing many local designers. In addition, we will also be auctioning off many quality items. This event is, of course, an all-ages event.

Tickets are now on sale at the low price of **\$15** and there will also be a cash bar.

If you would like to purchase tickets, make a contribution, or if you have any questions, please feel free to email me at oriana.camporese@bcyp.org.

Oriana Camporese
Minister of Community Fundraising

“Going Green”

We are taking steps to do our part to minimize our carbon footprint by reducing the number of mailed out paper 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 by mail and would like to start making a difference now by switching to the electronic format, simply email 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.

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.

You can send your donation (a cheque payable to Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society) to:

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

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”

**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?**

Contact email: alumni.affairs@bcyp.org

Contact address: THE SPEAKER - c/o Jenn Jay, Alumni Affairs Director
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