



23 September 2024

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: British Columbia Youth Parliament, 96th Parliament

The British Columbia Youth Parliament will hold its 96th Parliamentary Session in Victoria at the Provincial Legislative Chambers from December 27 to 31, 2024.

The Youth Parliament is a province-wide non-partisan organization for young people ages 16 to 21. It teaches citizenship skills through participation in the parliamentary session in December and continuing involvement in community service activities throughout the year. **Youth Parliament is a one-year commitment.**

I invite you to encourage eligible youth from your municipality or region to apply to sit as members of the Youth Parliament. BCYP is non-partisan, and applicants need only be interested in learning more about the parliamentary process and in serving their community. If your municipality sponsors a “youth of the year” award or has a municipal youth council, young people with that sort of initiative and involvement are ideal candidates for BCYP.

Each applicant who is accepted to attend as a member of BCYP must pay a **\$455** registration fee. Thanks to private donations and fundraising, a portion of the cost of transportation and accommodation is covered for all members. We encourage municipalities or youth councils to contribute towards the application fee for applicants who are in financial need. If the approval of financial support causes any delay, we encourage the applicant to send in their forms on time along with a note saying that the cheque will arrive after the deadline. In this case, if we receive the completed form and personal statement before the deadline, it will be considered received on time. If you are not able to aid, a limited number of bursaries are available for applicants who cannot meet the expense of the registration fee. Requesting financial assistance will not affect an applicant’s chance of being selected as a member. (See <https://bcyp.org/session>)

Members will sit and debate in the Legislative Chambers for five days and will be accommodated for four nights at the Marriott Hotel in Victoria. During that time, participants are supervised by members of the Board of Directors of the Youth Parliament of B.C. Alumni Society and other youth parliament alumni. In addition, transportation to and from Victoria will be provided for all members who require it.

I have enclosed an application form and a brochure about BCYP. I encourage you to make the application form and brochure available to interested young people and to make copies of the forms as needed. A soft copy of the form, brochure and poster are available from our website at <https://bcyp.org/session>.

All application forms must be received by November 1, 2024. Selected applicants will be notified in mid November. If you require more information, please contact me by e-mail as indicated above. You may also visit our website at www.bcyp.org.

Yours truly,

Ambrose Yung
Registrar, Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society



Who We Are

British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP) is about youth taking responsibility and initiative to make a positive impact in their communities. BCYP is a non-profit, non-partisan parliamentary education and service organization. BCYP is an extraordinarily unique organization - for youth and by youth.

For a full year, 90+ members pool their resources, creativity and determination for a common purpose: to advance, better and improve the youth of British Columbia. BCYP bring together youth from across the Province and unites them to fulfill the motto of "Youth Serving Youth". The youth of BCYP reach out and make a difference across British Columbia.

Why?

Because they can!

And more importantly, because they care.

BCYP is unique in that it is not simply a "mock" or model parliament - the legislation members debate translate into real action in the community.



est. 1924

CONTACT US

For more information on BCYP and its projects, visit our website:

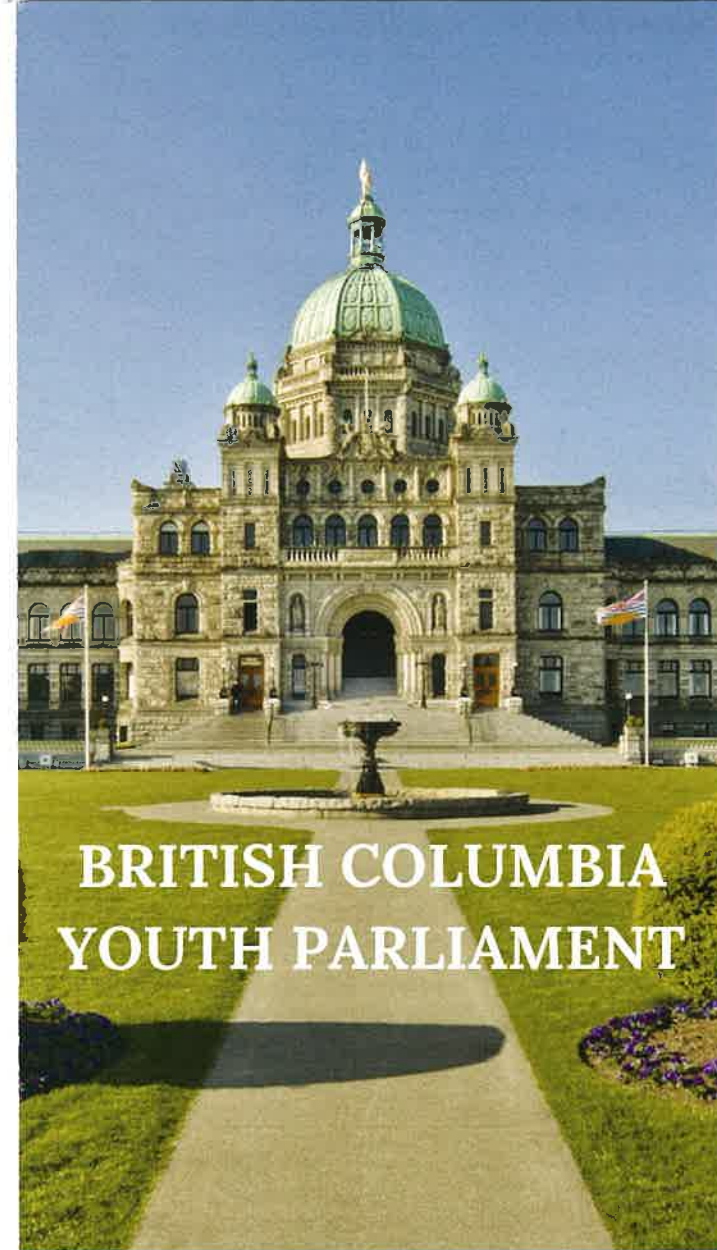
www.bcyp.org

or contact the Premier:

premier@bcyp.org

For application info contact our Registrar:

registrar@bcyp.org



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

Youth Serving Youth

for over 95 years



BCYP's Origin

British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP) began as the TUXIS Older Boy's Parliament in 1924. It became the BC Youth Parliament in 1974, upon the admittance of girls, and 2024 marked its 95th Session.

Each year, between December 27th and 31st, 90+ youth from across BC gather at the Legislative Chambers in Victoria for BCYP's annual session. Members sit as independents; they do not represent any political party and they vote according to their own consciences. They learn about parliamentary process, debate topics of interest, and plan activities for the coming year.

Proposed activities are presented in the form of government bills. The date is led by a Cabinet of experienced youth parliamentarians who spend months before preparing to present their plans. First-time members are also able to raise issues through debate on government legislation and by writing and presenting Private Members' Resolutions dealing with issues ranging from local to international in scope.

Once BCYP's bills are passed they must be put into effect. This is where BCYP differs from other youth parliaments in that BCYP is not a "model" or "mock" parliament - the legislation members pass translates directly into positive action in the community.



Youth Serving Youth

BCYP members organize and execute group service projects around the province. Members come together to volunteer with different organizations, special events or provide service to the community. They volunteer with summer camps, food banks, charity walks, soup kitchens, community support services, and other service organizations.

Additionally, across British Columbia through the year, individual members of BCYP perform solo acts of service in their communities and lend a hand through their involvement with other organizations. BCYP members help others in their communities in a myriad of ways, limited only by their imaginations and the will to carry out the projects they envision.



Fundraising

Each year, BCYP organizes a variety of fundraising events across the province. Members work in groups and in their communities to raise funds required to run BCYP projects and cover operations costs. They also engage in service-related fundraising working in groups and individual to raise money for a variety of causes.

Members participate in a variety of fundraisers such as pledge events, Krispy Kreme donut sales, and silent auctions. Members also solicit donations from local businesses and prominent members of their local communities.

Regional Youth Parliaments

To increase the number of youths who are able to participate in Youth Parliament activities, BCYP members organize and run Regional Youth Parliaments (RYPs) in various regions of the province. Through these events, BC Youth Parliament furthers its goals of promoting community service, education in the parliamentary process, and training in public speaking and debating.

More local in scope than BCYP, RYPs are weekend-long Sessions aimed at high school students between ages of 14 and 18. RYP members gather to discuss local, national, and international issues in a parliamentary setting.



Camp Phoenix

Camp Phoenix is BCYP's most ambitious project. It involves BCYP members organizing and running a summer camp for children from across BC who would otherwise be unable to live the summer camp experience. It is about pushing our limits and redefining terms like "hard work" and "commitment". It is about truly making a huge difference in the community.

This project is fully initiated, developed, and staffed by volunteer members of our organization. Our fundraising and efforts throughout the year come together to send up to 50 children aged 8-12 to enjoy a very special week of their summer and their lives. Camp Phoenix moves to different campsites across BC so that it provides the opportunity for children from all regions of the province to attend. This major project can comprise almost half of BCYP's annual budget.



WHAT IS BCYP?

British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP) is a youth organization that recognizes every young person's potential to lead and serve in the community. Since 1924, BCYP has provided a forum for young people to develop skills in leadership, organization, public speaking, and the parliamentary process, and to put these skills into practice through service to youth in their local communities.

BCYP is not affiliated with any political party and is a non-profit organization.

Membership in BCYP begins with attending the Parliamentary Session in Victoria and continues throughout 2025. For detailed information about BCYP's activities, visit our website, www.bcyp.org.

BCYP'S ACTIVITIES

BCYP's year begins with the Parliamentary Session from December 27 – 31, 2024. Members sit in the Legislative Assembly in Victoria and use the parliamentary style of debate to plan educational and service projects, establish BCYP's financial commitments, and amend BCYP's governing legislation.

At Session, Members:

- Meet young people from all over the province;
- Debate Cabinet's legislation which sets out BCYP's activities for 2025;
- Debate current local, national, and international issues;
- Learn about debating and the rules of parliamentary procedure;
- Elect BCYP's Premier, Deputy Speaker, and Leader of the Opposition for the 97th Parliament.

After Session, Members put into action the plans made at Session, which usually include:

- Volunteer service projects in their home communities;
- Group volunteer service projects with summer camps, food banks charity walks, soup kitchens, and other service groups;
- Special projects which vary depending on annual legislation but have included summer festivals, children's day camps and Camp Phoenix;
- Regional Youth Parliaments;
- Fundraising events;
- Social activities with other Members.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Each year 97 youth are "elected" to BCYP as representatives of their communities. Each applicant must be nominated by an organization committed to youth (i.e. a school, community group, club, Municipality or church). Five members of that group must indicate their support by signing the application form.

To be eligible for membership you must be:

- Age 16 – 21 (inclusive) as of Dec. 31, 2024;
- A resident of British Columbia;
- Nominated by an organization committed to youth;
- Willing and able to participate in BCYP's activities for one year.

Due to the limited number of seats in the Provincial Legislature, only 97 applicants will be selected to become Members this year.

SESSIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Accommodations: Accommodation at the Marriott Hotel Inner Harbour, Victoria is provided for all Members for the nights of December 27 – 30 (inclusive). Members will share hotel rooms.

Transportation: Transportation for Members residing outside the Victoria area is included in the registration fee. Members living in the **Interior, North, or North Island** will be required to travel on **December 26 and January 1**.

Meals: Each Member is responsible for the cost of meals in Victoria. Some dinners will be at assigned restaurants, others free-choice.

PRE-SESSIONAL INFORMATION

The Registrar will notify all applicants by email or mail as to their acceptance status by mid-November. Accepted Members are provided with an orientation package prior to Session and are invited to attend one of the Pre-Sessional Workshops held in different regions of the province. The details of the workshops as well as travel and safety info will be announced in the acceptance letters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Inquiries from applicants, parents, teachers and nominating organizations are welcomed.

Please contact: **Ambrose Yung, Registrar**
registrar@bcyp.org

PLEASE KEEP THIS PORTION FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

APPLICATION FORM – NINETY SIXTH BC YOUTH PARLIAMENT

LAST name: _____ FIRST name: _____ GENDER: _____

I identify as someone with indigenous ancestry Room with: M F

BIRTHDATE: (YYYY/MM/DD) _____ SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY: _____

CURRENT ADDRESS (including temporary/University residence):

STREET / PO BOX: _____ CITY: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS (i.e. parents) or STREET ADDRESS if DIFFERENT from above:

STREET / PO BOX: _____ CITY: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

TRANSPORTATION TO VICTORIA REQUIRED FROM:

CURRENT/TEMPORARY ADDRESS PERMANENT ADDRESS OTHER: _____

NOMINATING ORGANIZATION: _____

STREET: _____ CITY: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ TELEPHONE: (_____) _____

TEACHER / COORDINATOR NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____

SIGNATURE OF CONTACT TEACHER / GROUP COORDINATOR: _____

Would you (teacher/coordinator) like to receive a print and e-mail copy of the application package each year?
 Yes No Already on the list

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS/STUDENTS of _____ NOMINATE
(NAME OF ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL)

_____, A MEMBER/STUDENT OF OUR ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL TO SIT AS A BCYP MEMBER.

FIVE NOMINATING SIGNATURES REQUIRED:

	NAME	SIGNATURE	TELEPHONE
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____

Application form must be **RECEIVED** by November 1, 2024.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

At the Parliamentary Session in Victoria, Members of BCYP participate in parliamentary debating and plan activities and community service for the upcoming year. During the year, Members are responsible for service and fundraising in their communities, and organize and participate in projects such as a children's summer camp, Regional Youth Parliaments, fundraising events and other service and debating activities.

All **new** applicants must attach a **one-page** personal statement, outlining:

1. Why you would like to be a Member of BCYP;
2. What community service have you been/are, or intend to become, involved with in your community;
3. Any activities you have been/are involved with that relate to debate or public speaking;
4. With reference to the preceding questions, how you believe you can personally contribute to BCYP, including its parliamentary debates and other activities.

YOUTH PARLIAMENT EXPERIENCE

Have you attended BCYP before? Yes No

If **yes**, do you wish to become a member of the Alumni Society?

Yes No Already on the list

Have you attended a Regional Youth Parliament?

Yes If yes, which one(s)? _____ No

How did you first hear about BCYP?

From a teacher From a group leader Saw a poster/brochure (where? _____)

Through a Regional Youth Parliament (which one? _____) From a member or alumnus of BCYP or a RYP (name of individual: _____)

Other (please specify): _____

CONSENT & WAIVER

In consideration for acceptance to British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP), the undersigned on behalf of the Applicant and all heirs, executors and administrators, waives any and all claims for damages against BCYP and the Youth Parliament of British Columbia Alumni Society, and their directors, officers, and agents for any and all injuries or loss which the Applicant may suffer during, or in connection with any BCYP Session, trip, or any other activity, or transportation to or from Session or any activity.

Applicant's Signature: _____

If under 19, Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian Signing: _____

Please remember to:

- Save a legible scan of this form for your records. As a backup, please email the scan to: registrar@bcyp.org
- Mail or courier a signed hard copy of this completed form along with a cheque for \$455. **We must receive original signed hard copies for anyone under the age of 19. Your application will not be considered complete until the hard copy is received.**

Unit B – 1211 Roy Road Victoria, BC V8Z 2X8

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications must be **RECEIVED** by **Friday, November 1, 2024** by **mail or email attachment**. **If you send the application by email attachment, please mail the originally signed copy with your application fee.**

Please print clearly. Illegible or incomplete applications may be rejected. You can email a LEGIBLE scan of your form BY THE DEADLINE and send your hard copy of your form and cheque by other means such as courier. **Original signed hard copies must be received to consider your application complete.**

Applicants will be notified of their application status middle of November 2024.

REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee for each member is **\$455**.

A cheque or money order made payable to the **Youth Parliament of B.C. Alumni Society** must be sent with the application form or follow an e-mail with the original signed application as soon as possible (any acceptance is not final until a registration fee is received). An eTransfer can be sent to payment@bcyp.org. **Be sure to include the full name of the applicant in the comments section and email us your password.** Registration fees will be held onto (but not cashed) for those on the waitlist and returned to those not accepted. **NSF cheques are subject to a \$45 fee.**

Applicants who are in financial need are first encouraged to approach school and community groups to contribute to the cost of the application fee. For those who are not able to secure outside funding, a limited amount of **financial support is available**. For more information, please contact the Registrar **before** the November 1 application deadline to request a financial Aid application form. Requests for financial assistance will not impact membership selection. We encourage applicants to submit a cheque for whatever portion of the application fee they can afford. Requests for financial assistance cannot be considered after applicants have been accepted as members.

CANCELLATION

Accepted individuals who cancel on or before **December 6** will be refunded their registration fee minus a **\$25 administration fee** and **minus the price of any non-refundable travel already purchased** for them. No refunds will be issued for cancellation after December 6, 2024.



96TH BRITISH COLUMBIA YOUTH PARLIAMENT

DECEMBER 27 – 31, 2024
Victoria, BC

Sponsored by the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Complete the application form and forward it with your personal statement and registration fee. Members who require financial support can email the Registrar to request a Financial Aid Application.

Ambrose Yung, Registrar

Unit B – 1211 Roy Road
Victoria, BC. V8Z 2X8

e-mail: registrar@bcyp.org

Anyone under the age of 19 **MUST** submit their originally signed physical copy of the application to the Registrar in order for the application to be considered complete. **Your application will not be considered complete until the physical copy is received.** It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure their application is completed before the deadline.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

BCYP is sponsored by the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society, a registered, non-profit organization composed of past members of BCYP.

PLEASE KEEP THIS PORTION FOR FUTURE REFERENCE