



15 September 2025

Town of Lake Cowichan
Attn: Mayor and Council
PO Box 860
39 South Shore Road
Lake Cowichan, BC V0R 2G0

RECEIVED SEP 24 2025

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: British Columbia Youth Parliament, 97th Parliament

The British Columbia Youth Parliament will hold its 97th Parliamentary Session in Victoria at the Provincial Legislative Chambers from December 27 to 31, 2025.

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 **\$545** registration fee. Thanks to private donations and fundraising, a portion of the cost is subsidized and includes transportation and accommodation 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.

This year, the application is an online application and can be found on our website at <https://bcyp.org/applying/>. I have included a brochure about BC Youth Parliament with this letter. Our promotional poster is also available online on our website, which I encourage you to display in your school, and to make the application form and brochure available to interested students. If you require more forms, please feel free to make copies, and if you require more brochures or posters, please contact me.

All application forms must be received by October 31, 2025. 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, 97 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.



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CONTACT US

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

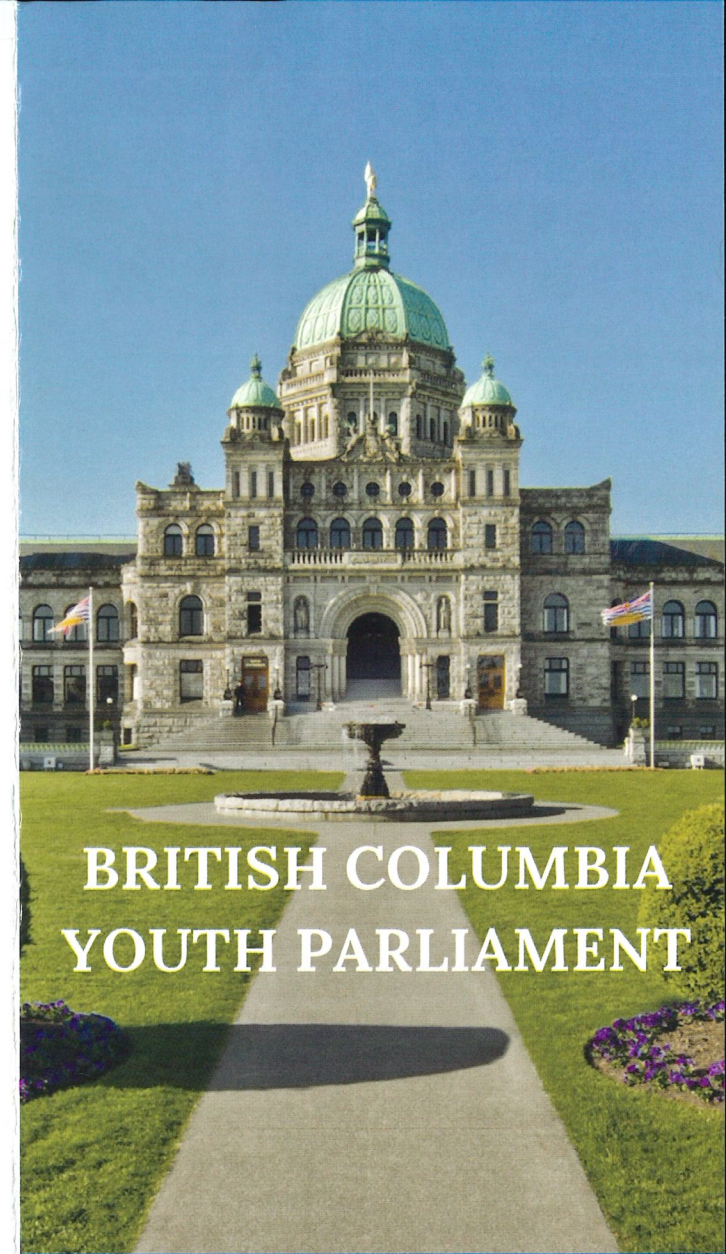
www.bcorp.org

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 2025 marked its 96th Session.

Each year, between December 27th and 31st, 97 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

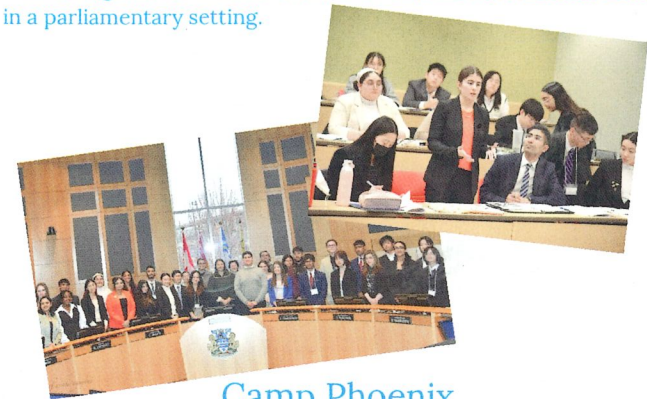
Each year, BCYP organizes a variety of fundraising events across the province. Members work in groups and in their communities to raise funds required to run BCYP projects and cover operations costs. They also engage in service-related fundraising working in groups and individual to raise money for a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

