



14 September 2023

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: British Columbia Youth Parliament, 95th Parliament

The British Columbia Youth Parliament will hold its 95th Parliamentary Session in Victoria at the Provincial Legislative Chambers from December 27 to 31, 2023.

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 \$425 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>)

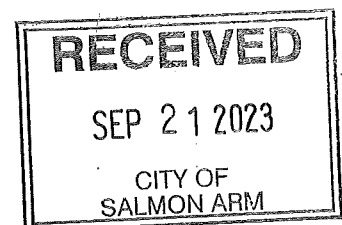
Members will sit and debate in the Legislative Chambers for five days and will be accommodated for four nights at the Marriott Hotel in Victoria. During that time, participants are supervised by members of the Board of Directors of the Youth Parliament of B.C. Alumni Society and other youth parliament 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 applications must be received by October 27, 2023. Applicants will be notified whether they have been selected in mid-November. If you require more information, please contact me by telephone or e-mail as indicated above or visit our website at www.bcyp.org.

Yours truly,

Ambrose Yung
Registrar, Youth Parliament of B.C. Alumni Society





British Columbia Youth Parliament

Application Package & Background Information

95th Parliamentary Session
December 27-31, 2023 - Victoria, BC

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 2024. For detailed information about BCYP's activities, visit our website, www.bcorp.org.

BCYP'S ACTIVITIES

BCYP's year begins with the Parliamentary Session from December 27 – 31, 2023. 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 2024;
- 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 96th 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, 2023;
- 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 and public health guidelines, 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. BCYP will follow all Provincial public health orders.

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 health & 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

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Complete the attached application form (pages 3 and 4 of this package) and forward it with your personal statement and registration fee. Members who require financial support can email to request a Financial Aid Application.

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

e-mail: registrar@bcyp.org

Applications must be **RECEIVED** by **Tuesday, October 27, 2023** by mail or email attachment. If you send the application by email attachment, please mail the original signed copy with your application fee.

Please print clearly. Illegible or incomplete applications may be rejected. You 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.

REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee for each member is **\$425**. 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 from BCYP**. For more information, please contact the Registrar **before** the October 27 application deadline to request a financial Aid application form. Requests for financial assistance will not impact membership selection. So that we can provide support for as many members as possible, 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 1** will be refunded their registration fee minus a **\$25 administration fee and minus the price of a non-refundable travel already purchased** for them. No refunds will be issued for cancellations after December 1.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSOR

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

Please keep this information page for future reference

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 27, 2023

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 Regional Youth Parliaments, fundraising events, community outreach projects, 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 paragraphs, how you believe you can personally contribute to BCYP, including debate at Session AND its projects and other activities throughout the Sessional year.

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

If "Yes" or "Already on the list" above, do you consent to receive e-mail communications from the Alumni Society, which may include requests for donations or other items of a commercial nature? (Note: answering "No" below means you will not receive any e-mails, including the Alumni Society's newsletter *The Speaker* or email invitations to alumni events.)

Yes No

Have you attended a Regional Youth Parliament as a Member or Ambassador?

Yes (as a member) Yes (as an ambassador); If yes, which one(s)? _____ No

How did you **first** hear about BCYP? (Please choose one option)

- From a teacher From a group leader Saw a poster/brochure (where? _____)
- Through a Regional Youth Parliament From a member or of BCYP or RYP alumni
(which one? _____) (name of individual: _____)
- Facebook Instagram Twitter Other (please specify: _____)

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 other activity.

Applicant's Signature: _____ (Applicant should sign even if a parent or guardian is also required to sign.)

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 \$425. **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