



# British Columbia Youth Parliament

**Application Package & Background Information**  
**91<sup>st</sup> Parliamentary Session**  
**December 27-31, 2019 - 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 2020. For detailed information about BCYP's activities, visit our website, [www.bcp.org](http://www.bcp.org).

## **BCYP'S ACTIVITIES**

BCYP's year begins with the Parliamentary Session from December 27 – 31, 2019. 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 2020;
- 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 92<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2019;
- 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.

## SESSIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

**Accommodations:** Accommodation at the Quality Inn in Victoria is provided for all Members for the nights of December 27 – 30 (inclusive). Members share rooms with other Members of the same gender.

**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 all 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 will be announced in the acceptance letters.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Inquiries from applicants, parents and nominating organizations are welcomed. Please contact:

**Rhonda Vanderfluit, Registrar**  
**registrar@bcyp.org**  
604-646-6623

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Complete the attached application form (pages 3 and 4 of this package) and forward it with your personal statement and registration fee (or financial support request form) to: (please hold onto pages 1 and 2 for future reference)

**Rhonda Vanderfluit, Registrar**  
**509 – 1383 Marinaside Cres.**  
**Vancouver, BC V6Z 2W9**

e-mail: [registrar@bcyp.org](mailto:registrar@bcyp.org)

Fax: 604-731-0081

Applications must be *RECEIVED* by **Tuesday, October 29, 2019** by **mail, fax, or email attachment**. **If you send the application by email attachment, please also mail the original signed copy with your application fee.**

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

## REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee for each member is **\$399**. A cheque or money order made payable to the **Youth Parliament of B.C. Alumni Society** must be sent with the application form. If the application form is sent by fax or e-mail, payment must be sent by mail, to follow, with the original signed application as soon as possible (any acceptance is not final until the registration fee is received). **We are not able to receive payment by credit card or eTransfer.** Registration fees will be held until Session (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 29 application deadline to receive a **financial support request form** to include along with your application form. 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 members who cancel on or before December 12 will receive a refund of their registration fee minus a \$25 cancellation fee, unless travel tickets have been purchased in which case no refund is issued. No refunds will be issued to any member cancelling after December 12.

## 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 and only mail in the application on page 3 and 4.

**APPLICATION FORM – NINETY-FIRST BC YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

LAST name: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST name: \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER: \_\_\_\_\_ Room with:  M  F

I identify as an indigenous/aboriginal person

**CURRENT ADDRESS (including temporary/University residence):**

STREET / PO BOX: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

STREET / PO BOX: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**TRANSPORTATION TO VICTORIA REQUIRED FROM:**

CURRENT/TEMPORARY ADDRESS  PERMANENT ADDRESS  OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDATE: (YYYY/MM/DD) \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY: \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATING ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT TEACHER / COORDINATOR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF TEACHER / GROUP COORDINATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you (teacher/coordinator) like to receive a personal 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:** (other members/students of the organization/school)

	Name	Signature	email
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 29, 2019**

**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.

Please attach a **one-page** personal statement, outlining:

1. Why you would like to be a Member of BCYP;
2. What type of activities you have 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)  No If yes, which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

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 alumnus of BCYP or a RYP  
(which one? \_\_\_\_\_) (name of individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Facebook  Instagram  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: \_\_\_\_\_

If under 19, Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian Signing: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Applicant should sign even if a parent or guardian is also required to sign.)*

Please remember to:

- Save a legible scan of this form for your records. As a backup, you may email the scan to: [registrar@bcyp.org](mailto:registrar@bcyp.org) or fax: attn to Rhonda Vanderfluit at: 604-731-0081 but still follow up with the next step:
- Mail or courier a signed hard copy of this completed form along with a cheque or money order for \$399.  
509 – 1383 Marinaside Cres, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2W9