



British Columbia Youth Parliament

Application Package & Background Information

93rd Parliamentary Session

December 27-31, 2021 - 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 2022. For detailed information about BCYP's activities, visit our website, www.bryp.org.

BCYP'S ACTIVITIES

BCYP's year begins with the Parliamentary Session from December 27 – 31, 2021. 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. All participants must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend.

At Session, Members:

- Meet young people from all over the province;
- Debate Cabinet's legislation which sets out BCYP's activities for 2022;
- 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 94th 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, 2021;
- A resident of British Columbia;
- Nominated by an organization committed to youth;
- Willing and able to participate in BCYP's activities for one year;
- Fully vaccinated against COVID-19 2 weeks before any in-person activity (proof of vaccine required).

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. BCYP will follow all BC Public Health guidelines for COVID-19.

SESSIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Accommodations: Accommodation at the Marriott Hotel, 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: **Rhonda Vanderfluit, Registrar** registrar@bcyp.org or 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. Members who require financial support can email to request a Financial Aid Application.

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

e-mail: registrar@bcyp.org, Fax: 604-731-0081

Applications must be **RECEIVED** by **Tuesday, October 26, 2021** by **mail, fax, 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 may fax or 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 a fax or 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 treasurer@bcyp.org with a copy to registrar@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 26 application deadline to request a financial Aid 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 5** 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 5.

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

APPLICATION FORM – NINETY THIRD 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 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 and phone
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 26, 2021

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 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); 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 or fax the scan to:

registrar@bcyp.org or fax: attn to Rhonda Vanderfluit at: 604-731-0081

- 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.**

509 – 1383 Marinaside Cres, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2W9