

Who We Are

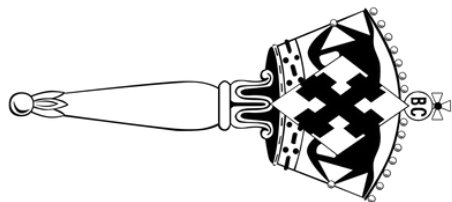
The British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP) is a non-profit, non-partisan, education and service parliamentary organization. BCYP is about youth taking responsibility and initiative to make a positive impact in their communities. BCYP is a unique organization that is for youth, by youth.

For a full year, 97 members pool their resources, creativity and determination for a common purpose: to advance, better and improve the youth of BC. BCYP brings together youth from across the province and unites them to fulfill the motto of "Youth Serving Youth". The youth of BCYP strive to engage and make a difference across BC.

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 translates into real action in the community.



BCYP Session and all BCYP events follow all BC COVID-19 safety protocols

Contact

For more information on BCYP and its projects, visit our website: bcyp.org
Or contact the Premier: premier@bcyp.org

For application info contact our Registrar: registrar@bcyp.org

Youth Serving Youth



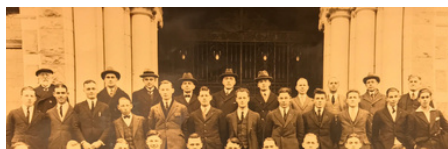
British Columbia Youth Parliament

BCYP's Origin

British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP) began as the TUXIS Older Boys' Parliament in 1924. It became the BC Youth Parliament in 1974, upon the admittance of girls, and 2023 marked its 94th 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 debate 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 throughout the year, individual members of BCYP perform solo acts of service in their communities and lend a hand through their involvement with other organizations. Across the province, BCYP members help others in myriad ways, limited only by their imaginations and the will to carry out the projects they envision.



Community Fundraising

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

Members participate in a variety of fundraisers such as pledge events, car washes, and BCYP's annual auction. Members also solicit donations from local businesses and prominent members of their local communities.

Regional Youth Parliaments

To increase the number of youth who are able to participate in Youth Parliament activities, BCYP members organize and run Regional Youth Parliaments (RYP) in various regions of the province.

Through these events, BCYP 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 hold weekend-long Sessions aimed at high school students aged 14 to 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. BCYP members organize and run a summer camp for children from across BC who would not otherwise be able to attend camp. It is about pushing our limits and redefining terms like "hard work" and "commitment". It is about truly making a difference in our community.

This project is wholly initiated, developed, and staffed by volunteer members of BCYP. 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 BC to attend. This major project can comprise almost half of BCYP's annual budget.

