

# Vancouver Youth Parliament

## Application Package & Background Information

37<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Session February 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - Vancouver, BC

**WHAT IS VYP?** Vancouver Youth Parliament (VYP) is a project of the BC Youth Parliament (BCYP), a youth organization that recognizes every young person's potential to lead and serve in the community. The Vancouver Youth Parliament is the longest continuously running of these projects, providing an opportunity for youth from the age of 14-18 to develop skills in leadership, organization, public speaking, and the parliamentary process. VYP is not affiliated with any political party and is a non-profit organization. Membership in VYP begins with attending the Parliamentary Session at UBC and continues throughout 2024. For detailed information about VYP's activities, visit our website, [www.bcup.org/ryps](http://www.bcup.org/ryps).

**VYPs ACTIVITIES** VYP's year begins with the Parliamentary Session from February 9-11, 2024. Members meet at UBC and use the parliamentary style of debate to debate issues of local, national, and international importance. At Session, Members:

- Meet young people from all over the province;
- Debate current local, national, and international issues;
- Learn about debating and the rules of parliamentary procedure;
- Elect VYP's Premier and Leader of the Opposition for the 38<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

**WHO CAN ATTEND?** Each year 50 youth are "elected" to VYP 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 14 – 18 (inclusive) as of Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024;
- A resident of Vancouver, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Richmond, Delta, Squamish, Whistler, and other municipalities in the Sea-to-Sky region;
- Nominated by an organization committed to youth;

Due to the limited number of seats, only 50 applicants will be selected to become Members.

**SESSIONAL ARRANGEMENTS** Parliamentary Session is held at the Liu Institute at the University of British Columbia. Session runs from approximately 4pm on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> to 2:30pm Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Members return home at the end of each day's activities. Members must attend all of Session and must contact the Chief Returning Officer before applying if this presents a problem. The registration fee includes dinner on Friday; lunch and dinner on Saturday; lunch on Sunday, and all paper materials, including a copy of the parliamentary journal.

**PRE – SESSIONAL INFORMATION** The Chief Returning Officer will notify all applicants by email or mail as to their acceptance status by early February. Accepted Members are provided with an orientation package prior to session.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE** Complete the attached application form and mail it with your personal statement and registration fee (or letter of request for financial support) to:

**Adrienne Chow**  
**Chief Returning Officer**  
**660 West 49th Avenue**  
**Vancouver BC, V5Z 2S4**

**E-mail: [vyp@bcyp.org](mailto:vyp@bcyp.org)** Applications must be **RECEIVED** by **February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024** by mail, or email attachment. **If you send the application by email attachment, please mail the original signed copy with your application fee.**

**REGISTRATION FEE** The registration fee for each member is **\$60**. 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). We are not able to receive credit cards or eTransfer. 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 VYP**. For more information, please contact the Chief Returning Officer **before** the February 4<sup>th</sup> application deadline and attach a letter of request 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 February 5<sup>th</sup> will receive a refund of their registration fee minus a \$25 cancellation fee. No refunds will be issued to any member cancelling after February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Please keep this information page for future reference.

**APPLICATION FORM – 37th VANCOUVER YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRENT ADDRESS**

STREET / PO BOX: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS/STUDENTS of \_\_\_\_\_ NOMINATE  
 (NAME OF ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL)

\_\_\_\_\_, A MEMBER/STUDENT OF OUR ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL TO SIT AS A VYP MEMBER.

**FIVE NOMINATING SIGNATURES REQUIRED:** (other members/students of the organization/school)

Name	Email	Signature

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 4TH, 2024**

**PERSONAL STATEMENT** At the Parliamentary Session at UBC, Members of VYP participate in parliamentary debating and participate in a number of skill-building workshops.

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

- a) **(First-time applicants)** Why you would like to become a Member, the other activities you are currently or plan to become involved within your community, and how you believe you can personally contribute to VYP.
- b) **(Returning applicants)** what you learned during the 36th VYP, how you personally contributed to the 36th VYP and how you will continue to contribute to VYP.

**YOUTH PARLIAMENT EXPERIENCE**

How did you **first** hear about VYP? (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: \_\_\_\_\_)

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION AND CONTACT**

B.C. Medical Number (i.e. CareCard Number): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #(s): \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Alternate Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #(s): \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any dietary restrictions and/or food allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Note: Unless arrangements are made in advance, participants will be expected to administer their own medication if any has been prescribed for them. Please notify the Chief Returning Officer of any chronic medical problems (i.e. severe asthma, allergies) that might require emergency treatment and explain the emergency treatment that might be necessary.*

**WAIVER**

In consideration for acceptance to Vancouver Youth Parliament (VYP), the undersigned on behalf of the Applicant and all heirs, executors, and administrators, waives any and all claims for damages against VYP, the British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP), and the Youth Parliament of British Columbia Alumni Society, and their directors, officers, and agents for any and all injuries of loss which the Applicant may suffer during, or in connection with any VYP Session, trip, or any other activity.

Parental Consent: "I have read the accompanying material and do hereby allow my child/ward to attend Vancouver Youth Parliament." (Mandatory)

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**TRANSPORTATION CONSENT**

The Vancouver Youth Parliament (VYP) and the British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP) are youth service organizations where most activities throughout the year are organized and run primarily by youth. As such, some of the volunteer drivers may be under the age of majority.

Parental Consent: "I consent to my child/ward being transported in a private vehicle during the course of any VYP or BCYP event for the duration of their membership in VYP for the year 2024/2025." (Optional)

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PUBLICITY AND PROMOTIONAL CONSENT**

From time to time, the Vancouver Youth Parliament or British Columbia Youth Parliament may use individual or group photos of Members for promotional purposes in newspapers, on bulletin boards at Youth Parliament events, on web pages, in press releases, in media packages, in newsletters and in slide or video shows.

Parental Consent: "I hereby do consent to my child's/ward's name and photo being used for publicity and promotional purposes. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my child's/ward's likeness in public relations materials, my child/ward may be excluded from certain activities or events at Session, including the official group photo."

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL INFORMATION CONSENT**

To enable Members to fully participate in the organization's activities after Session, Vancouver Youth Parliament distributes Members' contact information throughout the organization to keep them informed of VYP and BCYP events and activities.

Parental Consent: "In accordance with the Personal Information Protection Act, I hereby do consent to my child's/ward's contact information being published in the Vancouver Youth Parliament Journal."

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_