
CANADA YOUTH PARLIAMENT ACT**Contents**

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WHEREAS the young people of Canada have the opportunity to utilize Canada Youth Parliament to facilitate the discussion and debate of local, national, and international issues, to offer leadership, training and education in parliamentary democracy;

AND WHEREAS it is now expedient that the rules and regulations for the conduct and organisation of the said parliament be set forth;

THEREFORE, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Canada Youth Parliament, enacts as follows:

Definitions

1 In this Act,

“**Executive Committee Member**” means a prominent house leader at Canada Youth Parliament such as a Premier, Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Speaker, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Alternate Leader of the Opposition, President of the Privy Council or House Leader.

“**Host Parliament**” means the Member Parliament hosting the upcoming Session of Canada Youth Parliament;

“**Member Parliament**” means a youth parliament that has agreed to take part in the organisation of and be represented at Canada Youth Parliament;

“**Member**” means an individual selected to participate in Canada Youth Parliament;

“**Session**” means the parliamentary sittings of Canada Youth Parliament;

“**Canada Youth Parliament Board**” or “**Board**” means the perpetual committee struck to facilitate communication between Member Parliaments regarding Canada Youth Parliament issues and to advise the host parliament regarding the organisation of Canada Youth Parliament.

Member Parliaments

- 2 (1) The permanent Member Parliaments of Canada Youth Parliament shall be
- (a) British Columbia Youth Parliament,
 - (b) TUXIS Youth Parliament of Alberta,
 - (c) Saskatchewan Youth Parliament,
 - (d) Youth Parliament of Manitoba, and
 - (e) any Parliament that attended the previous Session of Canada Youth Parliament and intends to attend the upcoming session.
- (2) Other Canadian Youth Parliaments may be considered Member Parliaments of the upcoming Session of Canada Youth Parliament if they intend to send representatives to it and communicate that intention to the Host Parliament.

Biennial Sessions of Canada Youth Parliament

- 3 Session of Canada Youth Parliament must be held on the weekend of Victoria Day in alternate years.

Host Parliament

- 4 The permanent Member Parliaments shall rotate acting as Host Parliament for Canada Youth Parliament in the following order:
- (a) TUXIS Youth Parliament of Alberta;
 - (b) Youth Parliament of Manitoba;
 - (c) British Columbia Youth Parliament;
 - (d) Saskatchewan Youth Parliament;
 - (e) any parliaments admitted under Section 2(1)(e), in order of their being made permanent Member Parliaments.

Eligibility for membership

- 5 (1) Members must
- (a) be nominated by a Member Parliament, and
 - (b) be at least 15 but no more than 25 years of age by December 31 of the year in which the Session of Canada Youth Parliament is being held.
- (2) In the case that there is no Member Parliament in their province or territory of residence, an individual may apply to the Board for membership.

Recruitment

- 6 (1) Each Member Parliament is responsible for the recruitment of members from their parliament.
- (2) The Host Parliament or a representative is responsible for recruitment of Members from provinces and territories without Member Parliaments.

Representation of Member Parliaments

- 7 (1) Each Member Parliament must be allocated an equal share of seats at Canada Youth Parliament.
- (2) Members from Provinces without Member Parliaments are granted seats at the discretion of the Board.
- (3) The Host Parliament must appoint at least one executive committee member from each Member Parliament, where practicable.

Selection of membership

- 8 If a Host Parliament intends to reject the application of a Member nominated by a Member Parliament under paragraph 5(a), the Host Parliament must notify the Board at the earliest practical opportunity and provide reasonable grounds for rejecting the application, the onus of which lies on the Host Parliament.

Ambassadors

- 9 The Host Parliament may invite ambassadors from non-Member Parliaments to participate at Western Canada Youth Parliament provided that such ambassadors do not reduce the number of seats allocated to a Member Parliament under section 7 and that such ambassadors pay the full cost of participation and travel.

Canada Youth Parliament Board**Composition**

- 10 (1) The Board shall consist of two representatives from each Member Parliament and a Chair from the Host Parliament.

Representatives

- (2) Each Member Parliament must appoint two representatives to the Board, at least one must be attending the upcoming Session of Canada Youth Parliament.
- (3) Parliaments sending Members to Canada Youth Parliament

Chair

- (4) The Host Parliament must appoint a Chair who must
- (a) chair the Board, and
 - (b) cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie.

Quorum

- (5) The presence of one representative from each permanent Member Parliament plus the Chair shall be necessary for a meeting of the Board.

Voting

- (6) In matters requiring a vote
- (a) each permanent Member Parliament must have one vote for a maximum total of four votes, and
 - (b) the Chair must cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie.

Responsibilities

- (7) The Board must
- (a) agree on the number of seats allocated to each Member Parliament at Canada Youth Parliament and any changes to that distribution,
 - (b) allocate seats to Members from Provinces without Member Parliaments, including Ambassadors,
 - (b) resolve any situation arising from the need for a change of date, change of Host Parliament or similar situation,
 - (c) ensure that subsidies for travel costs to Canada Youth Parliament are fair and appropriate, and
 - (d) ensure that registration fees for Canada Youth Parliament are reasonable.

Responsibilities of Host Parliament

- 11 The Host Parliament is responsible for organising Session of Canada Youth Parliament, including but not limited to the
- (a) budget,
 - (b) location,
 - (c) sleeping arrangements,
 - (d) schedule,
 - (e) Standing Orders, and
 - (f) in the case of a deficit, any outstanding expenses related to the event.

Matters not covered by Act

- 12** All matters not covered by the provisions of this Act are at the discretion of the Host Parliament, in consultation with the Board where practicable.

Amendment

- 13** (1) The Board may amend this Act.
- (2) If it is impractical for the Board to convene in order to consider urgent business, the Host Parliament is authorized to operate notwithstanding the provisions of this Act subject to ratification by the Board at the earliest practical opportunity.
- (3) Any amendment made pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) above must be subject to approval at the next Session of Canada Youth Parliament by a resolution as set forth in subsections (4) to (6).
- (4) This Act may be amended by a resolution of Canada Youth Parliament.
- (5) A resolution under subsection (4) does not take effect until ratified by each permanent Member Parliament.
- (6) Any existing resolution or agreement governing the organization of Canada Youth Parliament remains in force until the condition in subsection (5) is satisfied.
- (7) If the ratification under subsection (5) does not take place before the following Session of Canada Youth Parliament, the resolution under subsection (4) is of no force or effect.

Commencement

- 14** (1) This Act repeals all resolutions governing the organization of Canada Youth Parliament which were in force as of the commencement of this Act.
- (2) This Act comes into force upon ratification by each Member Parliament.

