



Ministry of
Community, Sport and
Cultural Development

Democracy in Action Youth Conference Victoria, BC October 27 - 29, 2015

The Conference

The Democracy in Action program provides a unique opportunity for young people across British Columbia to attend a two day exploration of the democratic institutions of British Columbia organized by the Ministry of Community , Sport and Cultural Development. The program helps participants gain a better understanding of the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship and engage more actively in their civic duties as youth leaders in their communities.

The conference enables participants to meet and engage with government leaders and senior officials, learn about the electoral process, the operations of government, and tour key institutions in the provincial Capital.

Successful pilot in 2014

On October 26 – 28, 2014, the Ministry held a successful pilot version of the conference in Victoria, BC. The event was attended by 30 students from six BC regions: North (6); Interior (5); Coast (3); Fraser Valley (4); Lower Mainland (8); and Vancouver Island/Gulf Islands (4). Feedback indicated that the participants thoroughly enjoyed the subject matter. For some, the conference was a life changing experience and encouraged them to take a more active role in democracy and leadership. Based on these successes, the Ministry is running another event in the fall of 2015.

Plans for 2015

The Ministry is committed to working with Rotary to host a second annual conference. This year, we will be seeking 35 participants, ideally with no more than one participant per community. The theme will be leadership and community volunteerism and the conference will feature information on youth leadership opportunities and how participants can give back to their communities.

How you can help

To make this program the very best it can be, we need your help to, nominate and support one youth leader from your community to benefit from this opportunity. We are looking for:

- a) the name of a potential youth participant from your community to attend the conference; and
- b) a commitment to provide a \$350 contribution towards the cost of participation.

Eligibility

Participants must be BC residents aged 16-18, be supported by their local Rotary Club, and be engaged in leadership or volunteer development activities at school or in the community.

We are hoping to receive information from interested organizations on or before **June 30th 2015**.



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Participant Selection

Once we have a list of interested Rotary Clubs who have provided a participant nomination, conference staff will follow up with the Rotary contact to seek further details regarding the nominee and secure parental consent to participate.

Youth delegates and travel arrangements will be confirmed in September 2015. At the time participation is confirmed, the youth will receive an information package including a short reading list on topics related to how government works at the federal, provincial and local levels as well as a simple assignment to complete prior to travelling to Victoria.

Conference Arrangements

Transportation is included in the registration fee for participants residing outside the Victoria area. Travel to Victoria will occur on Tuesday October 27. Return transportation will be arranged for Thursday, October 29, 2015. Parents and/or the nominating organization are asked to ensure that the participant is transported to the nearest location of public transportation in the community and the project will arrange for the travel from this location to the Victoria event and return back to that location.

Program participants will stay in the conference hotel within walking distance of the BC Parliament Buildings. Participants will share rooms, but not beds, with other participants of the same gender. A male and female chaperone will be available at all times to ensure a safe and productive learning experience for all. All meal costs are included.

For more information

Rotary Club's can contact Ministry staff directly for more details on the program.

Email: Kris.Andersen@gov.bc.ca.

Telephone: (250) 952-6547 (reach out toll-free through Enquiry BC: 1-800-663-7867 and ask to be redirected).