

CONSTITUTION

Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society YBC4BG

Preamble

Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG) represents the interests of those under the age of 30 in the province of British Columbia, promoting policies that advance the lives of young British Columbians and their families, fostering civic engagement, and preparing the next generation of municipal leaders.

YBC4BG is committed to building a vibrant, inclusive, and responsible youth movement that reflects the diversity of British Columbia. Guided by principles of moderation, evidence-based policy, and cooperation, the YBC4BG empowers youth to engage in political life, contribute to policy development, and advance the candidacies of like-minded individuals.

This Charter establishes the purpose, structure, and operations of the YBC4BG.

1. Establishment

- 1.1 The Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG) is established to improve the lives of Young British Columbians.
- 1.2 It is governed by the society council, led by the President.

2. Purpose

The YBC4BG's purposes are to:

- 2.1 Encourage and support youth engagement in political and civic affairs;
- 2.2 Advocate for policies and ideas of particular relevance to young British Columbians;
- 2.3 Foster leadership development and mentorship opportunities;
- 2.4 Serve as a forum for discussion, policy innovation, and organizational growth;
- 2.5 Coordinate the efforts of young members across the province;
- 2.6 Uphold the society's commitment to inclusion, fairness, and responsible governance.

In all activities, the Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG) will promote equality, accessibility, and respect.

3. Membership

- 3.1 All registered members of Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG) aged 13 to 40 are eligible to be members of the YBC4BG.

3.2 Members have the right to participate in meetings, vote in Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG) elections, and stand for elected office within the organization.

3.3 Members are encouraged to participate in campus and regional clubs to promote local engagement and outreach.

3.4 Membership services may include what is deemed appropriate as established by the Executive.

4. Regional Boards

The Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG) may form Regional Boards responsible for:

4.1 Organizing events, outreach, and communications within its area;

4.2 Assisting in policy consultation and grassroots initiatives;

4.3 Supporting the establishment of campus clubs;

4.4 Reporting to the Society through the Regional Chair.

5. Provincial Executive

The Societal Executive oversees the affairs of the Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG) and ensures the effective coordination of its regional and campus activities.

5.1 Composition

The Society's Executive shall include:

5.1.1 The President and Chair;

5.1.2 Vice President and Vice Chair;

5.1.3 At least 3 Directors at Large for signing purposes.

The board shall also seek to recruit and appoint:

- Regional Chairs (Greater Vancouver, Interior & North, Okanagan & Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island);
- Women's Representative;
- Indigenous and Equity Representatives.

Non-voting members may include:

- Past President and Vice President (as advisor);
- Appointed special representatives (as approved by the Executive) such as the Executive Director, Legal Representative, and Management Representative or others deemed necessary by the board.

5.2 Election and Term

5.2.1 The Provincial Executive shall be elected every two years at the Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG) Annual General Meeting (AGM).

5.2.2 During the formation period, the Chair may appoint members to fill vacant roles with the approval of the executive.

5.2.3 Vacancies may be filled by an interim appointment of 6 months by the chair, or if the board consents until the next AGM.

5.2.4 The board may also choose to hold a byelection.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

6.1 President and Chair

Leads the Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG), acts as the primary spokesperson, presides over meetings, and serves as the primary liaison with elected officials.

6.2 Vice President and Vice Chair (Operations)

Assists the Chair in administrative matters and ensures coordination of internal operations and compliance with internal policies. Leads recruitment and outreach efforts, ensuring inclusion of underrepresented youth across BC, including Indigenous, multicultural, and rural communities.

6.3 Directors at Large

Oversee regions and specific areas of policy development as approved by the board.

6.4 Women's Representative

Promotes the involvement and leadership of women-identifying members. This role is not mandated to be filled unless a qualified candidate steps forward.

6.5 Indigenous Representative

Encourages participation of Indigenous youth and ensures Indigenous perspectives. This role is not mandated to be filled unless a qualified candidate steps forward.

7. Campus and Riding Clubs

Local Clubs may be established with approval from the Societal Executive.

Each club must:

7.1 Have at least 2 active members;

7.2 Elect officers every two years;

7.3 Submit a Charter Agreement to the Societal Executive for ratification;

7.4 Operate consistently with this Charter and Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG) principles.

Recognized clubs are entitled to organizational support, access to materials, and mentorship from the Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG) Executive.

8. Meetings and Governance

8.1 The Provincial Executive shall meet at least quarterly.

8.2 Regional Boards shall meet at least twice per year.

8.3 Meetings may be held electronically if all members can participate effectively.

8.4 Quorum for Executive meetings shall be a majority of voting members.

8.5 Decisions are made by majority vote, with the President/Chair casting the deciding vote in the event of a tie.

9. Conduct and Accountability

All Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG) members and officers must uphold the highest standards of integrity, respect, and inclusiveness.

Misconduct, including harassment, discrimination, misuse of funds, or actions contrary to Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG), may result in suspension or removal from office following a two-thirds vote of the Societal Executive or by Members.

10. Committees

The Provincial Executive may create standing or ad hoc committees, including but not limited to:

- 10.1** Policy Committee;
- 10.2** Equity & Inclusion Committee;
- 10.3** Events and Campaign Committee;
- 10.4** Finance and Fundraising Committee.

Committees must report their activities quarterly and maintain written records of decisions and recommendations.

11. Review and Appeals

Any Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG) member or Regional Board may request a review or appeal of a disciplinary or procedural decision.

A Review Committee shall be composed of:

- 11.1** The Chair (or Vice-Chair if the Chair is the subject of review);
- 11.2** Two Directors at Large;
- 11.3** One non-Executive member appointed by the Executive if possible.

Findings must be reported in writing to the Executive within 30 days.

12. Elections

All Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG) elections shall be conducted in a fair and transparent manner.

- 12.1** Nominations shall open at least 30 days before an AGM.
- 12.2** Nominations shall close one week before an AGM.
- 12.3** Voting shall be by secret ballot or secure electronic system.
- 12.4** Only current Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG) members in good standing may vote or stand for office.

13. Adoption and Amendment

This Constitution takes effect upon ratification by the Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG).

Amendments may be proposed by any Regional Board or by petition signed by at least five percent of YBC4BG members.

Approval requires either:

13.1 A two-thirds vote of the Young British Columbians for Better Governance Society (YBC4BG) Executive; or

13.2 A majority vote at the AGM.